THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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ADDRESS TO THE READERS.

THE commencement of a second volume of the *Nonconformist* imposes upon us a duty no less grateful than imperative. We have to report progress, to return thanks, and to renew our pledge of stedfast adherence to principle.

We have no reason to be dissatisfied with the course we have uniformly pursued. The brief history of the *Nonconformist* has borne out our expectations, that a conscientious and uncompromising advocacy of truth, quite irrespectively of party convenience, is the surest way to enlightened public approbation. On the fourteenth of April last, this paper started on its career. To the ordinary difficulties which new publications have to encounter, were superadded those arising out of wide-spread indifference to the main object of its establishment, and cherished suspicion of the motives by which its best friends were actuated. It rose in clouds. It had the sanction of no influential party. By the leading men of that large body whose ecclesiastical principles it proposed to advocate, it was frowned upon as intrusive. The authorities were clearly against it. All mention of it was studiously avoided in those periodical publications which dissenters are wont to consult. Alone and unbefriended, save by a warm-hearted few, it set out upon its course. It flattered no class. It gave way to no prejudices. It shrunk not from the avowal of principles which the cant of the day had branded with an odious name. It steadily followed truth, indifferent as to whose path it was called to cross. Against that species of shuffling, which goes by the name of expediency, it set its face from the first; and its one rule has been to utter, not what its readers might wish, but what they ought, to hear.

A public organ sustaining this character was a novelty. Few men expected the experiment to succeed. The great majority of those under whose notice it first came predicted its signal failure. For ourselves, we have never entertained any serious misgivings as to the result. Events have proved us right. Neglect has not silenced us—calumny has not destroyed us. The *Nonconformist*, unaided by any of those methods usually resorted to with a view to attract passing notice, has quietly emerged from obscurity, and taken a station of unquestionable influence. Its detractors retire abashed. It has lived down prejudice. Friends rapidly gather around it. It has secured wide and warm commendation—and public support already guarantees its permanence as an organ of Christian politics.

This gratifying result must chiefly be ascribed to the honest truthfulness with which the *Nonconformist* has adhered to its professed principles, and to the sincerity and earnestness of heart with which it has laboured to promote them. Its object has been a real, not merely an assumed one—and if the preference of truth to party had threatened its certain and immediate extinction, it would unhesitatingly have met its fate, content to pass into oblivion rather than to wed dishonour.

To the zealous exertions of its friends, the *Nonconformist* is deeply indebted, and to them grateful acknowledgements are respectfully tendered. It has been our singular felicity to have acquired during our brief progress, not only the good-will but the active co-operation of a large and still increasing circle of subscribers. They will be gratified to learn that, whilst for the sake of the principles we advocate their further efforts are much to be desired, as far as regards the stability of this paper, their past labours have been crowned with success.

It would ill become us to pass by without thanks the newspaper press, whether metropolitan or provincial. The unsolicited liberality with which they have given selections from our articles a place in their columns, and the disinterested expression of their respect and approbation, have conduced in no small degree to place us in our present triumphant position. They are worthy of double honour in this matter, inasmuch as our plan precludes the possibility of our making them any effectual return. Their courtesy stands in marked contrast with that portion of the monthly press which professes to be identified with the cause we have sought to advance. Liberal papers of all shades of opinion have quoted the *Nonconformist* without reserve—dissenting periodicals, almost without exception, have suppressed even our very name.

Whilst our great and growing success cannot but be to ourselves a matter of gratulation, we would not forget that it imposes upon us a solemn responsibility. If in future we should go astray, we can plead no excuse in extenuation of the crime. We are under no constraint—we are linked with no party—we owe our position to no class influence—we are under no temptation to compromise truth with a view to obtain support. The moment we abandon our independence, we hope our readers will abandon us.

Our principles are now well known, and our mode of presenting them to the public mind. In matters ecclesiastical we recognise but one authority—in matters political but one rule. We bow to no lawgiver in the church but Christ—we pay deference to no state policy which bases itself upon an infraction of universal justice. "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you" is the polar star about which we wish to revolve. The rights which we possess we are anxious that others should enjoy. And we will not cease to raise our voice against exclusive privileges until the last trace of them shall have disappeared from the British constitution.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE FORCED MARRIAGE.

WHEN Constantine proclaimed the banns of matrimony between the secular power and Christianity, the inquiry, had it occurred, would not have been unreasonable, whether the free consent of the latter had been first obtained. And when the civil magistrate, dressed in his gayest, approached the altar to plight his troth and receive the hand of the heavenly maid, what reply, we wonder, would have been given to the question so natural and appropriate under all the circumstances of the case, "Who gives this woman away?" We fear the marriage was a one-sided one—that the bride was never asked "Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?"—that the ceremony so far as she was concerned was a dumb-show, hurried over whilst she was panic-stricken and faint, and that she was borne off by the lusty bridegroom as a sacrifice and not a wife. If so, an immediate divorce should be promoted—for the consent of both parties is necessary to the validity of marriage.

It may be all very well, and, doubtless, very pious indeed, for the right reverend fathers in God, led on by the Duke of Wellington, to declare that no single duty of the state can be plainer than this, that it should ally itself with the christian church. The boy Jones might imagine himself under a similar obligation to take unto himself to wife, Victoria the first. In this latter case it is just supposable that the duty of the juvenile aspirant after regal honours would be somewhat affected by her Majesty's inclination—and that upon her manifestation of unequivocal repugnance and disgust at the bare mention of the patronage intended for her, the conscience of the youth would be fully discharged of the guilt of disloyalty, even although he made no further attempt to force his hand upon his beloved sovereign. Should he, however, in defiance of the queen's will, in utter disregard of the disparity subsisting between the two parties, and in innocent but ridiculous unconsciousness of the difference between the tastes, pursuits, habits, affections, and duties of the one and those of the other, persist in believing himself bound by the claims of loyalty to wed his royal mistress—one of two conclusions might be safely drawn, either that the lad's intellects were weak and unsettled, or that his whole being had run into one mould, and could take no other form—an inordinate and morbid appetite for palace cheer.

Holy bishop Blomfield—gentle Philpots—heavenly-minded Lyndhurst—grave and learned Waterford, together with the combined wisdom and piety which in the upper and lower houses of parliament radiate from stars, crosses, garters, and collars, or repose beneath military and naval uniforms, or settle under the shadow of overhanging wigs, or hide themselves behind silk aprons and shovel hats, may determine that it is the duty of the legislature—that comely body composed of many members—to contract an indissolu-

ble alliance with the church—or, in other words, with the living and embodied Christianity of the land. Be it so. We question not their motives—they are evidently of the purest. All history goes to establish the fact, that the civil powers, in affecting a union with religion, have been swayed by a single and unmixed regard to the welfare of religion — and nothing is more obvious than that, in our own country, and in our own day, nought but affection for Christianity—no selfish, no unworthy passion, prompts our rulers to maintain it uninterrupted. All this may be taken for granted, or rather may be considered as proved. Still one might be tempted to surmise that the question "What does Christianity itself say to the union?" is not wholly irrelevant. Surely she is to have a voice in this matter. In an affair so closely identified with her own well-being there is nothing so extremely absurd, that we can perceive, in consulting her will. If, after all, the state be found to be not the man of her choice—if between the two parties there be no natural sympathy—if religion, speaking through the medium of scripture, plainly say "No," and set forth her hopes, pursuits, objects, as altogether a bar to the proposed alliance—why, then the sensitive consciences of our peers and commons should be considered, we think, relieved of the obligation they had recognised, and the yearnings of their piety might yet find some more becoming mode of expression. If they cannot consistently become legislators for religion, they might perhaps content themselves with being religious legislators.

A truce to banter! Let no one mistake us. If the strain of the preceding remarks savour of irreverence, upon their heads be the responsibility whose deeds can only be fitly represented by such words. If we have resorted to an illustration which would seem to do violence to that chaste and sacred awe with which God's revelation to man ought ever to be regarded, it is that we may bring out into stronger relief the reasonableness, nay, the necessity, of settling this question of a state church by the dictates of inspired truth. We have no idea of the infallibility of an axiom asserting the propriety of this alliance as a self-evident proposition, without so much as glancing at the authority of the divine word. Whatever the bishops and the clergy may think of it, we must take leave to consult Christianity itself. If it should be found that the genius of that beneficent system abhors a merely nominal submission to its claims, forbids coercion, renounces worldly honours, and establishes an authority to which sceptres must reverently bow—if legislation by erring men in matters of religion, even when those men are imbued with unquestionable piety, be distinctly denounced—if a state apparatus for reaching the ends of truth manifestly and necessarily supersede and contravene every distinctive law of the great Head of the church—then, we say, that episcopal axioms, however sustained by pomp, and dressed up in the robes of human authority, are but solemn inanities—frivolous, empty, unreal—a mockery of wisdom—a wretched perversion of sacred things, which every man of common sense and ordinary piety is bound to reject with ineffable scorn and loathing.

Our readers, therefore, will not be displeased if, in a few successive numbers, we attempt to furnish an answer to the inquiry, "What does Christianity itself say in elucidation of this question of church and state?" We propose to be brief and to the point. We shall address ourselves to the reason of plain men. Assuming that scripture is what it professes to be, and that, being such, its authority must be decisive, it will be our object to obtain from it a response touching the alliance of things sacred and secular, in terms which all men, whether theologians or not, may readily understand. They will then be in a position to determine whether when, in reference to the spiritual ends proposed by it, we declared the establishment to be a grand imposture, we spoke without adequate authority; and to decide for themselves whether a state church, so far from being a correct representation of Christianity, be not an earth-born monster, whose parentage must be divided between ambition and hypocrisy.

BRAINTREE CHURCH RATE.

We have not yet heard whether the defendant in this important case has yet found out the court day by day, or additional court day, or other day of tribulation, on one or other of which he is cited to find his way into the murky region of pitfalls, called ecclesiastical courts.

It may appear a hard saying, but we doubt whether the holy and pious care which this benevolent and christian court—we use these terms out of courtesy and not of faith—has intimated its intention to give to the soul's health of the defendant, will render it the better; but we have a perfect faith that they will seek to convince him that money is the root of all evil, and therefore that it will in its mercy earnestly endeavour to relieve him from that which corrupts and hardens the heart.

"Warm water and bleeding," said Sangrado—"Citation sweats and purse depletion," say the Doctors Commons representatives of our "venerable fathers in God." Doubtless all this is kindly meant. The courts in Doctors Commons are paved with good intentions. We have heard of the way to another place being so paved; and the asphalte for both is supposed by some to be supplied from the same lake. Men, since the scriptures reached them in their own tongue, have shown a growing distaste for these visitations of love for the soul, manifested in lust for the pocket; the identity between religion and cash has not been so clear since the book of truth has been read by the flock, as when it was kept by the craft in vellum.

As Christianity became known, priestianity has tottered and now rocks. The advance which society has made is this, priestianity and Christianity were assented to as identical; they are now known upon the authority of the New Testament as opposites—that the one is truth, the other craft; and that those who would enjoy the blessings of the one, must array themselves against the frauds of the other.

The reformation was an emanation from God, its immediate cause the art of printing, which diffused the spirit of the gospel, pouring forth the principles of the universal equality of man, as man; and of universal benevolence as due from all to each, and each to all. Its object was the regeneration of human nature. The craft of episcopacy depraved the movement into a struggle of worldly selfishness under a religious pretence. Instead of the struggle of principles, it became a struggle of priests for supremacy, and the gospel has had to war against the pharisaical leaven of hierarchical covetousness. It has yet to remove many whited sepulchres.

The craft of episcopacy having vanquished the subtlety of catholicism, used the art of printing to show so much light only as was necessary to raise their broad expansions into the saddle; and having appropriated the loaves and fishes, they adopted the old institutions of vanquished subtlety to gag those who complained of episcopal suction. They had taught that it was wicked in men to submit to the old deception, but once seated they held that to complain of being crushed was worthy of the greater condemnation.

The weaker brethren urged that the catholics, whom the craft had called locusts, had built and sustained the churches (i. e. the buildings) and shared the loaves and the fishes with the poor of the heritage; but like union doctors who contract for the maximum of physic at the minimum of price, prescribe drastics instead of bread, and teach the starving independence by purgation, the craft gave the weak ones citations to sustain the buildings, and white sheets in cold churches to purge their souls.

The Braintree case supplies a truthfully characteristic illustration of the ecclesiastical love of a principle. They had allowed the old common law form of summoning the people to rate themselves prevail, whilst they could induce them to buckle the load upon their own shoulders; but as soon as the sufferers doubted the obligation of carrying the burden, custom was nothing, law was nothing, and the minority was entitled to tax the majority. The beginning of the end is passing before us; and this cause, which ever way it may be decided, will materially advance it.

CHURCH RATE MEETING AT STOKE UPON TRENT.

On Thursday week a meeting of the ratepayers of the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, assembled to take the propriety of granting a church rate into their consideration. Very few of the ratepayers were aware of the notice of the meeting, until the appearance of a handbill on Wednesday, calling attention to the fact, and urging their attendance at the vestry. This appeal was responded to, and by eleven o'clock in the morning there could not have been far off 1,000 persons present. The vestry was not opened until half-past eleven, when it was densely filled—many hundreds remaining outside.

The Rev. J. W. Tomlinson, the rector, took the chair.

Mr Tomkinson, churchwarden, then read an estimate for the coming year. The whole estimate for the two churches was 345*l.* 5s. 1d. He (Mr Tomkinson) therefore proposed that a rate of 1¾d. in the pound, for the repairs and other expenses of Stoke and Shelton churches, be ordered [loud disapprobation].

Mr. Robinson, of Stoke, stepped forward, and was loudly cheered. He condemned what he denominated the bait thrown to the working classes, that the large ratepayers alone would be called on to pay the rate; and said the working men would feel it their duty to battle for the large ratepayers, even if the latter would not battle for the working men [applause]. Mr. Robinson proposed an amendment, to the effect "That the meeting was of opinion that church rates were unjust in principle, and ought to be resisted, and that the meeting do adjourn for twelve months" [loud applause].

Mr. Mart seconded the amendment.

The Chairman said he would not put the amendment to the meeting [disapprobation].

Mr. James Holden said that the 10,980,000*l.* which the tithes produced ought to be appropriated to the support of the church, the clergy, and the poor, as it was before the time of the protestant reformation.

J. Ridgway, Esq., on coming forward, was loudly cheered. He said, regarding principle and conscience as superior to all other considerations, he appeared there that day. He had lent his aid at various times to support several grants for the churches in the parish, the plea for which had been "Only support this, and we'll not trouble you any more" [laughter. "No, no," from the chair]. As to the handbill that had been circulated, he (Mr. Ridgway) was far from considering it cruel, unjust, unfair, and unreasonable [loud applause] in its statement; but considered it to be a statement of facts. What, he would ask, was the state of the manufactures [cries of "Distress"]? What was the state of the shopkeepers [cries of "Distress"]? What was the state of the workmen [cries of "Distress"]? What was the rate of their wages [loud cries of "Very low;" and a voice, "Compare our wages with the rector's]." Loud applause; and, "I have no wages, I am not a servant," from the rector]. What (continued Mr. Ridgway) was the price of provisions [cries of "Very high"]. What was the general state of the country [cries of "Distress"]? In conclusion, Mr. Ridgway said, while he agreed entirely with the principle of the amendment proposed, he would suggest a little alteration in it, to bring it in conformity with law. After enumerating the difficulties in which the manufacturers are at the present time placed, the difficulties of the shopkeepers, and the distress of all, he proposed to make use of the words, "that this meeting therefore do adjourn to Easter Monday" [applause]. That would be legal, and then the ratepayers could come again and do likewise [loud applause].

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mart withdrew their amendment in favour of Mr. Ridgway's, amid loud cheers.

W. Ridgway, Esq., next came forward, and was received with cheers. He regretted to meet them on the subject of church rates; and remarked that, however others might condemn their views, it would be found that the people would so read the Word of God—

which was so plain, "that a wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein"—the people would so read that book, so as to be as competent to interpret it aright, as the learned and reverend gentleman in the chair. After alluding to the wealth and learning in the established church, he said that one-half the incumbents were non-residents.

Rev. Mr. REDDALL. It is untrue.

Mr. W. RIDGWAY. The gentleman says it is not the truth.

Rev. Mr. REDDALL. I did not say that you told an untruth, but I said the fact was not true.

Mr. W. RIDGWAY. Then I'll go to the proof [drawing a book from his pocket].

The CHAIRMAN. You need not stop to prove it.

Mr. W. RIDGWAY. As the reverend gentleman had disputed his statement, he would read an extract from a return to parliament, made by the clergy themselves—the archbishops and bishops, dated 1841 [hear, hear]. From this it appeared that out of 5,214 incumbents, 2,589 were residents, and 2,625 were non-residents. It was said that the conscientious scruples against paying church rates were all humbug; he referred to the way in which dissenters supported their own places of worship and schools, as a contradiction to that [cheers]. He hoped their legislators would take warning in time; that the clergy would not force their peculiar schemes of education on the people; and concluded by stating, he thought the day was coming when every man would have his rights, under the blessing of a gracious Providence [loud cheers].

The CHAIRMAN then called for a show of hands for the rate, when either six or seven were held up for it, amidst the derision of the meeting. The negative being put, a forest of hands responded to it.

A poll was then demanded by some of the chairman's party, which he said would open immediately, and keep open until four, and then be adjourned to Friday.

Mr. RIDGWAY observed, that if the chairman declined to put the amendment, he ought to have declined the chair [cheers]. It was the order of every meeting for the amendment to be put first [loud cries of "We'll have it"]. The chairman ought in honour to leave the chair [cries of "Turn him out"].

Mr. RIDGWAY, to the chairman. In the presence of this meeting, I ask you, will you (as you are bound to do) put the amendment [loud cheers]?

The CHAIRMAN. I am not bound to do so [loud disapprobation]. He then left the meeting amid the hootings of the people.

Mr. RIDGWAY then proposed that F. Wedgwood, Esq., should take the chair.

Mr. MART seconded it, and the motion was carried by acclamation.

The amendment, adjourning the consideration of the rate to Easter Monday, that the rector had refused to put, was submitted to the meeting by Mr. Wedgwood, and carried unanimously, with loud clapping of hands.

At Dover on Thursday last, the parishioners met in the vestry agreeably to notice, to receive the report of the auditors, and to have the churchwardens' estimate of the amount of church rate now required laid before them. Mr C. Lamb was called to the chair, and a protest was handed in by Messrs Palfrey and Beal, against the charge for repair of organ, organist's salary, and clerk and sexton's salaries, &c. Mr Sankey said he considered that neither Mr Palfrey nor any one else, except auditors, had a right to be present. Mr P., was the agent of a church rate agitation society, and no doubt he would raise objections until the day of his death. He concluded by moving a resolution to the effect "That the auditors be requested to proceed immediately to make a rate in the usual way, omitting only the minister's salary." Mr Palfrey observed that the vestry was called together for two objects only—viz., the report and the estimate. The notice stated that the auditors were appointed to make the rate on the 23d instant, and as they did not make it then, he contended that they could not make it now—nor could this vestry empower them to do so. If they proceeded to make the rate in what he considered an illegal way, he should refuse payment; and if it was attempted to be enforced, he should again dispute the validity of such rates. On the other hand, if the rates were legally made, he would not pay them, but would quietly submit to a distraint on his goods. He denied being the agent of any church rate agitation society: in the opposition he had offered to the late rates, he had acted on his individual responsibility, from a conviction that he was doing his duty. He had not received any promise, or made any engagement with any party, to induce him to take the course he had done. He had no doubt, that if assistance were needed, it would be readily granted by those whose views were in accordance with his own. He concluded by moving an amendment to the effect, "That as there were in the notice of the meeting no specific purpose beyond receiving the auditors' report and the churchwardens' estimate, the vestry could not entertain any other matter." Mr J. Bates, and others, called for an estimate; but it was refused. On a division, there appeared about 55 for Mr Sankey's resolution, and 22 or 23 for the amendment. The auditors met at twelve o'clock the same day, and made a rate of 3d. in the pound.

On Friday, December 10th, a meeting of the rate payers of the parish of St. Erth was convened for the purpose of making a rate for defraying the expenses of an addition to the church yard, the estimate of which, including materials, labour, and the bishop's fees, was £32, which sum the parishioners offered to realise by a voluntary contribution. This proposition was, however, rejected by the vicar, the Rev. J. Punnett, who presided, and the churchwardens moved that a church rate be forthwith made of threepence in the pound. This the ratepayers opposed by an amendment, to adjourn the meeting till that day six months, which the chairman on calling for a show of hands declared to be carried.—*Western Times.*

In some observations on the question of church rates, the editor of the *Leeds Mercury* says, "Though we have no positive information on the subject, we may state that it is highly probable that a measure will be brought into parliament during the ensuing session, by the present ministers, for settling the church rate question; and as it is known that Sir Robert Peel and Lord Stanley, as well as their tory friends, generally favoured the scheme proposed by Lord Althorp, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, for abolishing the present system of church rates, and taking the sum of £250,000 a year, as a substitute, out of the land tax or the consolidated fund, it is probable that this plan will form the basis of the measure to be proposed. It is well known to our readers that the objections to this scheme were so strong, on the ground that it did not satisfy the dissenters, because it was a church rate under a different name, and that it was deemed so improper that the people of Ireland and Scotland should, through the medium of the general taxation of the country, be made to contribute to the replenishing of the coffers of the established church of England, that it was abandoned by the whig ministry. These considerations will probably have less weight with the present ministry than they had with their predecessors."

Sir Robert Inglis, who appears destined to punish Peel for his tergiversations in more ways than one, declares that he will, no matter what the consequences may be, bring forward his measure for church extension early in the next session of parliament.—*Hants Independent.*

The next bishop to be appointed under the colonial fund will have the superintendence of the clergy and congregations in connexion with the church of England in the islands and on the coasts of the Mediterranean; and then measures will be taken for the erection of episcopal sees in the colonies of New Brunswick, the Cape of Good Hope, Van Dieman's Land, and Ceylon. The fund is alone chargeable with the endowment of the bishopries; the support of the clergy will for the most part be derived from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.—*Times.*

The *Church of England Quarterly Review* says that "our national clergy are not addicted to politics, but the very reverse—intently and zealously employed in their ministerial labours!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NEW SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

I HAVE republished the articles on the suffrage, entitled "Reconciliation between the middle and working classes," in a separate pamphlet with the following brief introduction:—

"The editor of the *Nonconformist*, in which the following articles recently appeared, has given a general permission to reprint them. The principles are so ably stated, and the conclusions drawn from them are in themselves so just and equitable, that without committing myself to all the details, I earnestly commend them to the candid and impartial consideration of those who wish to be guided in their political, as well as religious conduct, by the precepts of the gospel.

"It is a distinguishing and beautiful feature of Christianity that it leads us to recognise every country as our country, and every man as our brother; and as there is no moral degradation so awful, no physical misery so great, as that inflicted by personal slavery, I have felt it my duty to labour for its universal extinction.

"Whilst thus engaged, it has sometimes been pressed upon me, that the sufferings of my fellow-countrymen had a prior claim on my attention; and I freely acknowledge that the patriot and the christian fail in the discharge of their duty, if they do not by all peaceable and legitimate means strive to remove the enormous evil of class legislation.

"I would therefore solemnly appeal to all, to consider if they may not by timely exertion avert yet greater calamities, and seriously to ask themselves whether they have not an individual responsibility, which, if they remain indifferent spectators, will include them in the condemnation of him, 'who knoweth to do good, and doeth it not,' for 'to him it is sin.'"

I will endeavour to supply thee from time to time with early information of the progress of the movement in favour of complete suffrage, based upon the declaration which has recently appeared in the *Nonconformist.*

I have more pleasure in doing so, because I have no interest in the *Nonconformist* beyond cordial approbation of many of the principles it advocates. Very little opportunity has yet been afforded for receiving signatures to the declaration; but the parties who have already attached their names, or expressed their willingness to do so, comprehend ministers of religion, members of corporations, and individuals well know as supporters of peace, anti-slavery and temperance societies, and advocates of the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, including a majority of the council of the Manchester League, and a number of prominent members of the society of friends.

I hope the columns of the *Nonconformist* will be open to judicious suggestions from any who are interested in the subject, as to the best means of securing a representation of the people in parliament, based upon the principles recognised in the declaration.

I am, respectfully,

Birmingham, 1st month, 3d, 1842. JOSEPH STURGE.

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To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The question of property, in its great outlines, is sufficiently plain: but in some of the ramifications into which it runs in civilized society, it is involved in a little difficulty. The application of general principles is not very evident, and one party may claim where another cannot perceive any right to exist. Such a case it is conceived is that of copyright. The notion of property seems natural to man, and the injunction "Thou shalt not steal" finds an echo in every conscience. In a natural state, the act of appropriating what before was common, and in society, either such an act, or the agreement of the society, constitutes a right of property. The shell or the stone that a man picks up on the shore he rightfully claims, according to natural law, as his. Property may also be acquired by a law of society, a law to which, in theory, each member consents. Thus, a society might agree that property belonging to it, as a body, should become vested in one individual; or that property, originally belonging to an individual, but to which, by some act, he had lost all natural right, should yet continue to be his.

Considering these different means of acquiring property in their bearing upon the present question, it may be observed, that though an author "lies under no obligation to impart his ideas," yet having thought fit to do so, by writing a book and sending it into the world, he has no natural right to prevent any man copying the book. Such a right of prohibition can exist only on the ground of an agreement, or of a positive law. As an artisan who had constructed a novel machine, or manufactured a peculiar piece of furniture, would have no right, in the absence of special agreement, to prevent a purchaser of the one or the other, using it as a model. The article might be purchased under such a restriction, as in the case of patent manufactures. These restrictions, no doubt, sometimes injure society; for if the contrivance be one that would have been produced by other minds within the term of the patent, both the second inventor and the public must sustain a loss. Yet this possible inconvenience is permitted for the sake of securing to an ingenious and enterprising man a reward for his toil; and the protection, while it stimulates individuals, may eventually benefit the public. The privilege allowed to the mechanician may fairly, and with greater safety, be

allowed to the author. The reasons for it are available to both, and as it is inconceivable that two independent authors should have the same thoughts, arranged in the same order, and expressed in the same words, the public cannot lose the advantage of contemporaneous or subsequent invention.

While objecting to the high ground assumed by those who claim for authors a right in perpetuity, to their published thoughts and words, we still regard it as a duty on the part of the public to grant authors ample protection, and to consider itself after all their debtor. A duty, however, does not always imply a corresponding right. A term of years extending long beyond the death of an author would benefit the families of but few, but then those few would be deserving. As to the objection that an extended copyright would keep up the price of books — if the price of a book is high, no one is compelled to purchase it, and if others have talent to produce a book equal in worth, at a less price, let them do it; and books, like other marketables, will find their level. If no one can produce such a competitor, the author must surely be one of rare excellence, and deserving a high reward.

November 18, 1841. D. G.

GENERAL POLITICS.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The packet ship Independence, which left New York on the 8th of December, conveys the President's message to Congress on its opening.

The President begins by congratulating congress that throughout the year "peace has been on our borders, and plenty in our habitations." He then alludes to the acquittal of Alexander M'Leod, in which he rejoices; while he regards the trial of M'Leod as the only answer that could be given to the demand of Great Britain for his discharge, "by a government the powers of which are distributed among its several departments by the fundamental law." The executive government of the Union cannot enter a *nolle prosequi* upon a prosecution pending in a state court; but no foreign power could complain of that, as it is a mere point of municipal regulation to fix at what stage of proceedings such an order may be made.

Speaking with approbation of the prompt release of "one Grogan" by the Canadian authorities, the President regrets that he cannot report an equally satisfactory conclusion of the Caroline case; the British government having made no atonement for the wrong done to the territory of the United States. If the owner of the vessel were proved to have acted in conjunction with "those who were in the occupancy of Navy Island," it would bar his claim for indemnification; but that would not touch the higher question of the territorial inviolability of the Union, the invasion of which could only be justified by the most pressing emergency. He makes no doubt that the British government will see the propriety of renouncing the precedent which it has set in the affair at Schlosser. On the right of search of ships bearing the flag of the Union, as suspected slavers, Mr. Tyler makes no concession; at the same time he calls upon congress to give greater force and efficacy to laws for the suppression of the slave trade. He has no progress to report in the boundary question. He next turns to the other foreign affairs of the Union, expressing a warm interest in the welfare of Texas. The war in Florida has been prosecuted with unabated activity, and seems to approach a speedy termination. Mr Tyler then takes a review of the finances and financial state of the country. On the 1st January there will be a deficiency to provide for of 627,557 dollars. Of the loan of 12,000,000 dollars authorised by congress, only 5,432,726 had been taken up. He recommends "moderate counsels" in revising the tariff; and lays down the principle, that "so long as the duties shall be laid with distinct reference to the wants of the treasury, no well-founded objection can exist against them." On the resumption question he says much, but nothing distinctly; he expresses an opinion, that it would be well "that every bank not possessing the means of resumption, should follow the example of the late United States Bank of Pennsylvania, and go into liquidation, rather than by refusing to do so to continue embarrassments in the way of solvent institutions, thereby augmenting the difficulties incident to the present condition of things." He adheres to his veto of the two "fiscal agent" bills of last session; but shadows forth a plan of the kind, with which the secretary to the treasury is prepared, "subordinate in all respects to the will of congress directly, and to the will of the people indirectly," separating "the purse from the sword," and denying to the President all but very limited control over the officers by whom it is to be carried out.

Mr Tyler calls upon congress to "relieve the chief executive magistrate, by any and all constitutional means, from a controlling power over the public treasury." Alluding to the foreign debts of the separate States, an "indebtedness" amounting to 200,000,000 dollars, he hopes that the states will resort to every legitimate expedient before they forego a faithful compliance with their obligations. He proposes that congress should regulate and restrain the power of the President to remove public officers; since that power acts as a stimulus to office-holders and office-hunters in the elections. These, the chief points of the speech, occupy almost all its space.

The British and North American royal mail steamer the Acadia, Captain Ryrie, arrived at Liverpool, on Friday morning at one o'clock. She sailed from Boston, on the afternoon of the 16th, and Halifax on the evening of the 19th ult., and brings only 17 passengers. She brings New York papers of the 15th, Boston of the 16th, and Halifax of the 19th ult.

The proceedings of congress, from the 8th to the 14th, were merely routine, and possess no interest for the general reader. The reports of the different departments of the government are published in the papers, as well as the correspondence between the English and American ministers. The documents and the correspondence are extremely long.

The *Philadelphia Gazette* states that the treasurer of Philadelphia had money enough in the treasury to meet the interest of the State debt due in February.

The grand jury for the county of Philadelphia had had under its investigation certain matters connected with the United States Bank and its officers. On the 14th ult., the jury sent in a report, upon which they desired bills to be drawn against Nicholas Biddle, Samuel Jaudon, and John Andrews, and others, for entering into a conspiracy to defraud the Stockholders of the United States Bank of the sum of 400,000 dollars in the year 1836.

The message of Governor Bigger, of Indiana, was sent to the legislature on the 7th ult. The message admits that the state has neither under its control nor in prospect, for some time to come, the means to discharge the interest on the whole of its public debt. He thinks, however, that the natural resources of the state, and such other resources as can be properly and prudently applied, place the state in a condition to pay its debts, and finally redeem its sunken credit.

The *New Orleans Advertiser* of November 30th states, that the banks have all agreed to resume specie payment on the 1st of November, 1842, and that in order to effect this object, the strong banks, as they are called, have agreed to take out of circulation 850,000 dollars of the circulation of what are called the weak banks,

The New Orleans papers contain late accounts from Mexico. A letter dated Vera Cruz, October 20, states that the Texas forces, which had occupied the city of Santa Fé, had been defeated by the Mexican troops, who had taken 100 prisoners.

The intelligence from Canada contained in the papers received by the Acadia is not of general interest.

FRANCE.

On the 27th ult., the chambers were opened with the usual ceremonies. At one o'clock the King left the Tuileries. The quays were lined with national guards and troops of the line. Upon his Majesty's arrival at the chambers he proceeded to read the following speech:—

"*Gentlemen, Peers, and Deputies.*

"Since the close of your last session the questions which excited in the East our just solicitude have reached their term. I have concluded with the Emperor of Austria, the Queen of Great Britain, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the Sultan, a convention which consecrates the common intention of the powers to maintain the peace of Europe, and consolidate the repose of the Ottoman empire.

"The great burdens imposed upon the country have already experienced considerable reductions. It would have been my lively wish that a balance should have been immediately re-established between the expenditure and revenues of the state. This is the result which we must now prepare, and which you will achieve without weakening our military organisation, and without deferring the execution of those works which are to increase the national prosperity.

"A project of law will be presented to you for constructing the principal lines of a great system of railroads calculated to ensure those rapid and easy communications with all parts of our territory, which will prove a source of force and riches to the nation.

"I am endeavouring at the same time by negotiations prudently conducted to extend our commercial relations, and to open new markets for the productions of our soil and of our arts.

"Such labours honour peace, and render it stable and fruitful at the same time. I have reason to reckon that it will not be disturbed, receiving from all the powers the most amicable assurances.

"I have taken measures to prevent any external complication from disturbing the security of our African possessions. Our brave soldiers are pursuing on that land, henceforth and for ever French, the course of their noble labours, in which I am happy that my sons have had the honour of concurring. Our perseverance shall complete the work undertaken by our courageous army, and France will introduce into Algeria her civilisation as the consequence of her glory.

"The financial laws and others, having for their object to introduce useful improvements in the public administration, will be presented to you immediately.

"Whatever may be the burdens of our situation, France would support them without difficulty, if faction did not unceasingly obstruct the course of her powerful activity. I will not dwell upon the intrigues and crimes of the factious, but let us not forget, gentlemen, that it is that which debars our country from fully enjoying all the blessings which Providence has conferred upon it, and which retards the development of that legal and pacific liberty which France has at last achieved, and of which I make it my glory to ensure her the possession.

"We shall follow up this task, gentlemen. My government will do its duty. It will maintain everywhere and constantly the authority of the laws, and cause them to be respected, as it will respect them itself. Your loyal support will aid me. In enlightening the country with persevering sincerity with regard to its true interest we shall strengthen by its support, and by our union keep entire the sacred deposit of order and public liberties which the charter has confided to us. Future generations will reap the fruit of our endeavours, and the gratitude of our country will be our recompense."

The following is the result of the election of president of the chamber. The whole number of voters present was 309; thus making 155 votes necessary to constitute an absolute majority. The numbers on the division were:—M. Sauzet, 191; M. de Lamartine, 64; M. Odilon Barrot (about) 57. M. Sauzet was accordingly declared duly elected. The nominations and elections of presidents and secretaries of *bureaus* was much in favour of the ministry. M. Lamertine was pitted in one *bureau* against Dufaure; and Dufaure had 16 votes, Lamartine but 3. The opposition, however, complain that their friends were absent. Dupin, Passy, Dufaure and Lacave Laplagne are amongst the presidents of *bureaus*.

In Wednesday's sitting, the following were elected vice-presidents:—Dufaure, 246 votes; Calman, 172; Jacqueminot, 176; Bignon, 151. Dufaure and Calman are of the middle, or Passy party, Jacqueminot conservative, Bignon the same. Vivier, M. Thiers' candidate, had but 113 votes; M. Tracy also had 30.

The following is the important declaration of the French press against the conviction and sentence of M. Dupoty. After stating that by it public writers are deprived of those guarantees which are a natural right in every civilised community, and which the revolution of July had promised, and the charter had consecrated, it proceeds:—

"In circumstances so solemn and so critical, it has appeared to us necessary to make known to the public, whose suffrage sustains us, and whose sentiments we believe we represent, that our faith in the great principles we defend is not shaken. We declare then—

"With the charter, that 'the French have the right to publish and to print their opinions, conforming themselves to the laws.'

"With the article 69, of the same charter, that 'the judging of offences of the press belongs exclusively to the jury.'

"With the constitution of 1791, that 'no man can be pursued by reason of the writings which he has published, unless he has designedly provoked disobedience to the laws.'

"With the article 202 of the penal code, that 'provocation, to be made a crime or an offence, *must be direct*,' and not the result of a connexion more or less arbitrary between a fact and the writings which have preceded or accompanied this fact.

"With the article 60 of the penal code, that 'there cannot exist complicity where there is no knowledge of a plot.'

"With MM. Royer Collard, Odilon Barrot, Lamartine, Berryer, Dufaure, and Dupin, that it is not wise to give judicial attributes to a political body, and that in making the Chamber of Peers *la Cour Prevotale* of the press, its sincerity has been compromised, as well as the force of our opinions.

"With citizens of all opinions, that the degree of liberty at which a nation has arrived may be judged of by the degree of liberty which its

press enjoys, and that in this respect France since 1830 has positively retrograded.

"In fine, that this is a point upon which all can agree—writers, electors, deputies, and citizens of every class. It is a duty to refuse concurrence to the policy of any administration which will not repair the attempts made against public rights by the laws of September, as well as by the last decree of the Court of Peers.

"In this situation, we appeal to the Chamber of Deputies—we hope that it will rise to the duty which circumstances impose upon it.

"And if, contrary to all expectation, it fails to do its duty, we shall appeal to the electoral body, which is invested with political rights, well convinced that it will not forget the 66th article of the same charter, which has confided the rights of the press, as well as all other rights consecrated by the charter, to the patriotism and courage of the national guards and of all French citizens."

SPAIN.

The Cortes were opened on the 26th with the usual ceremonies. The following is the speech delivered by the Regent:—

"Senators and Deputies—It is with a sentiment of lively satisfaction that I present myself for the second time in the midst of you with our adored Queen, in the august name and during the minority of whom I have the high honour of exercising the royal authority, confided to me by the nation. Your patriotism and loyalty inspire me with the confidence that the constitutional throne will become strengthened and fixed on solid and indestructible basis, and that the prosperity and prospects of our country will be the object of your meditation and wisdom.

"I can acquaint you, with the utmost pleasure, that our relations with friendly powers continue to gather strength by the bonds of that harmony and good intelligence which are tightened by sincere friendship. The other nations which have recognised our exalted Queen preserve those sentiments of justice which dictated that recognition. The governments which have not taken that step contemplate us without hostility, make continued inquiries respecting our political situation, and as it becomes more stable, the day is not distant, in my opinion, when reason shall triumph, and the national cause complete its victory.

"It is satisfactory to me to announce to you, that the treaty of peace, amity, and recognition with the republic of the equator has been concluded on bases honourable to both governments and useful to their interests, as you will observe by the papers that will be laid before you. Our agents have proceeded to represent her Majesty's government at Quito, and to preserve our relations with that state.

"Similar treaties have been also concluded with the republic of Uruguay and Chili. When the ratifications are verified, you will be able to judge of the zeal and patriotism which presided over the negotiations. With the other republic, not yet recognised, the same conduct will be pursued, in order to produce the same happy result, as becomes nations which have a common origin. Another treaty is in course of negotiation with Portugal respecting the navigation of the Tagus.

"Negotiations are pending with different states to expedite and render more free the correspondence so often obstructed, to the prejudice of our interests and theirs.

"England has given satisfaction for the disagreeable occurrence of Carthagena last May, and the French government has seen with pain the violation of the territory of the Aldudes. The government of her Majesty, desiring to remove the causes which have always led to these deplorable conflicts, is negotiating a treaty with the King of the French, who has presented a project, met on our part by another on different bases. The definitive settlement of this will be made known at the proper time.

"The revolt which broke out in the month of last October disturbed the public tranquillity, and obliged the government to proceed with activity and energy to crush it in its origin. The constitution, as well as the precious lives of our innocent Queen and her august sister, were menaced by an armed conspiracy; but Providence enabled the loyal Spaniards to save those dear objects of our hopes. All the means at our disposal were employed to repress this horrible attempt, and the hand of justice chastised the principal delinquents whose criminal attempt failed against the firm attitude of the nation, and the energy of the government. The public vengeance once satisfied, the government deemed that it might exercise clemency, and spare the lives of some of the rebels.

"The events of Barcelona, which sprang from an abuse of confidence, obliged the government to declare that rich and populous city in a state of siege. This measure, which had for its object to avoid the effusion of blood, produced neither violence nor punishments, so that these punishments might be executed according to the ordinary laws, when the legal situation of things was re-established. The tribunals are busy with the causes to be tried, as actively as the administration of justice requires.

"Since these events, peace has been restored throughout the whole monarchy by the triumph of the laws, and every cause of new disturbance has disappeared.

"The valiant army and resolute national militia defended the constitution and the laws with loyalty, and the country is grateful for their services.

"The roads under the care of government were in a bad state, in consequence of their being necessarily neglected during the civil war, which concluded with so much glory. But the persevering efforts of government have produced satisfactory results. New roads have been constructed in great part, repairs have been effected, and materials have been collected for more than 600 leagues of road. Those from Valencia and Corunna may be begun next spring. Some bridges also have been commenced, and other works requisite for the internal traffic of the country. The remarkable development of mining industry claims especial attention. Efforts on this point have produced new works and enterprises. The sad state of the public stores, in consequence of calamities which have afflicted the country for half a century, has induced the government to encourage the establishment of agricultural banks, of which the result is highly beneficial to the agricultural classes. The government persists in the intention of realising this measure, and it hopes by this means to augment the public wealth.

"Public instruction has received great amelioration. A considerable number of parishes or communes, which were without the first elements of education, enjoy at present this indispensable element of civilisation. In some provinces normal schools have been opened, in imitation of that established in the capital. This will prove a nursery to supply schoolmasters and professors to all the villages of the peninsula. By the aid of provincial and municipal corporations, the government has other projects in preparation, which will give a great impulse to public education, and remove the errors which obstruct it. In order to improve the secondary and higher class of education, a law is necessary, which the Cortes, in its last session, had not time to discuss or adopt.

"The army and provincial militia have been organised on the most effective basis; the diminution of its numbers, and the suppression of the royal guard have produced retrenchments which must lighten the burdens of the people. Unfortunately, circumstances have not permitted us to extend this economy as far as could be wished, the late rebellion having required the provincial regiments to act in concert with the regular forces to defend the country.

"The valiant army, which has given so many glorious days to the nation, preserves the organisation given to it last August. It is regularly provisioned, and the government bestows upon it the preference that it merits. Its *morale* and discipline are excellent, and its fidelity and patriotism guarantee obedience to the government.

"The levy (quinta) of 50,000 men takes place without obstacles in the provinces, although with the delay usual in such operations. More than 30,000 have already entered the depots, and the regiments have begun to fill up their deficiencies. The law voted by the Cortes has ameliorated that passive (non-fighting) portion of the army and the execution of this law will console those who have spent their best years in the service of their country.

"Justice is administered with all the regularity and promptitude that our present legislation permits, but this will soon be reformed by codes now in preparation to be presented to the Cortes.

"The law permitting to cut off entails begins to lighten landed property of its burdens, and these advantages extend to all those interests in which nature and civil obligations have conferred the right of claiming their legitimate dues. The chaplaincies in the gift of individuals and *lay benefices* are given by the law to the owner of the property.

"The advantages of this law may be appreciated by the considerable value which it puts in circulation.

"The decree of the 29th of June, by which divers measures were adopted, and the manifesto published in reply to the impolitic allocation of the Pope, have put a stop to the aggressions which menaced the nation and the government.

"Different means have been adopted for the accomplishment of the law of worship, and the management of the clergy, and government will exert all its power to fulfil its religious obligations for the benefit of the nation and church, and important *data* hav been obtained to bring this new and necessary work to a conclusion.

"The especial tribunals of the royal household and patrimony have been abolished, as incompatible with the constitution. The situation of colonial functionaries has been ameliorated by the establishment of rules which correct the clauses introduced by time.

"The government exerts itself with zeal to introduce honesty and regularity in the administration of finance, and is firmly resolved to punish frauds. The augmentation of the public funds, and the decree of centralisation, have enabled us to fulfil our obligations with more punctuality than in former years. The tariff law, voted November 1st, offers no certain basis to calculate its advantages; but as it has been extended to all the provinces, without excepting the Basque, I hope for happy results.

"A general direction of customs, tariffs, and public revenues, has been created without augmentation of expense, in place of the old junta and administration. The laws centralising the bills of last year's contracts are in course of execution, and the salt and stamp duty have enabled us to procure funds to meet privileged obligations. A strong impulse has been given to the operations preliminary to the sale of ecclesiastical property, by measures tending to obviate fraud, and the government hopes that the law will soon become perfect. The sales of national property proceeding from ecclesiastical establishments extinct continue with activity. These sales continue to augment the mass of private property, and to diminish our public debt. The wise system pursued by the government in all its acts had produced the happiest results. I hope that, after the payment of the transatlantic debt, we may henceforth meet with regularity in the different expenses of the public service. Credit merits a special attention, and the necessary funds have been prepared to pay the interest of the capitalisation at home and abroad. The national and foreign creditor will thus learn how religiously we keep faith; a virtue for which Spain has ever been renowned.

"The navy, which formerly was the glory and honour of the Spanish nation, was reduced to the lowest ebb. Government, convinced that this force gives life and health to states, had paid it regularly, and has put some ships in repair to cruise upon the coast. Other vessels of various classes have been put in a state to render important service. Others are put in commission, to repair to our colonies, should it be necessary. The commercial navy occupies the attention of government as the basis of a military navy, and as the surest means of promoting industrial and commercial prosperity. Since the restoration of peace the mercantile movement is reviving. To it the confidence of tranquillity is necessary.

"Thanks to these elements, thanks to the liberty inherent in our institutions, and to the protection of a just and strong government, agriculture, industry, and commerce, will reach the highest degree of prosperity, which our fertile territory and geographical position are capable of. To attain this end government is decided to protect the spirit of association that develops itself everywhere, and by which a vigorous impulse is given to every branch of public wealth.

"The transmarine provinces, always faithful to the government of the mother country, continue to give proofs of adhesion and respect. The peace which reigns there has not been disturbed under its auspices, and with the paternal protection of government, have attained a remarkable degree of prosperity.

"Actuated by the prudence required by the interests of these rich provinces, the government has submitted to the junta for the revision of special laws various plans capable of being applied in promoting the good of the inhabitants and the prosperity of the islands.

"The treaty of commerce concluded with the republic of the *Equador* shall be laid before you. Its provisions are advantageous to both states, and I do not doubt that you will give it your approval.

"The government, sincerely attached to the representative system, is anxious to augment the guarantees calculated to secure stability and permanency to the constitution under the sway of which we have the happiness to live.

"With this view there will be presented to you a project of ministerial responsibility, designed to act as a check on men invested with power, and to secure the political principles of the Spanish nation. The necessity for ameliorating the public administration, and for harmonising with the constitution of the state the organic law which is legitimately derived from it, induced the government to submit to the Cortes projects of laws on the organisation and functions of the municipalities, the provisional deputations, and the political chiefs. There will also be presented to you a project of law on the liberty of the press, tending to suppress the abuses and check the licence under which defamation is pursued upon system, calumny promulgated on calculation, and conspiracy instigated by sordid interest. Desirous to establish uniformity to the administration of all the provinces, in a manner equally conformable to the welfare of the nation and to the public faith, the government has thought it a duty to present a project of law to modify the fueros of the Basque provinces. The good of the administration requires a new division of territory that shall remedy the defects pointed out by experience in the present one; for this purpose a project of law will be submitted to you, for which the public advantage loudly calls.

"There will likewise be laid before you a project of law for the organisation of the tribunals and of the magistracy, and another on the permanency and responsibility of the magistrates and judges. The spirit of the age and the progress of legislative science, the security of person and of property, will no longer permit that the judicial power should any longer remain in its present state: and it is time that laws should be established for its organisation, in conformity with those constitutional principles which ought to be observed. The government will submit for your consideration other laws intended to regulate the registries and notarial offices of the kingdom, the scale of judicial fees, and finally, other projects of law for the organisation of the ecclesiastical tribunals, as well as in reference to the apostolic reserves.

"The budget will also be submitted to your consideration, in order that you may examine it with all the care called for by the peremptory necessities of the public service and by the general good. If the ordinary revenue should not suffice to cover the national expenses, the government will offer to you the means of meeting them. The vicissitudes that the country and the public administration have had to undergo in past years have given rise to a considerable number of retiring pensions. Necessity requires, and propriety suggests, that the existing arrangements should be modified. A project of law to this effect will be laid before you.

"Other plans of reform will be presented to you in conformity with economical science and the wants of the people.

"To purify, as much as possible, the operations of the Bourse, the government has adopted certain measures which have produced effects advantageous to credit and to private property; and in order to carry out this plan there will be presented to you a project of law that shall go to prevent the Bourse from being the cause of ruin to numerous families who there compromise their fortunes in imprudent speculations.

"Messieurs les Senateurs et Députés—The eyes of the nation are fixed upon you—its hopes repose on your integrity and your patriotism—to you is confided a great regenerating duty—and the book of immortality reserves for you a golden page. Rely upon my exertions, and upon the honest heart of a soldier, who has always fought for the liberty and glory of his country. Do not forget that factions, as powerless as they are criminal, aim in their madness at attacking the constitution and the throne, in the hope of bringing discredit on the sacred cause which we defend, and of exciting Europe against us. Let us bind more closely the ties of sincere union, and consolidate the constitutional throne of a young Queen, whose magical name has always vanquished the enemies of liberty. For myself I have no ambition; my life belongs to my country; and the glory of having served it with good faith will form my patrimony.

"May the existing constitution, the throne of the young Isabella, the national independence, and the government created by the will of the people, be the objects of our fidelity, and guide us in our legislative labours for the consolidation of a strong and just government, which, avoiding the snares laid by ambitious factions, shall for ever assure the prosperity and happiness of the nation."

PORTUGAL.

Lisbon news to the 27th ultimo, was brought by the Tagus steamer. The British line-of-battle ships Revenge and Indus were at Lisbon; and the Prince of Joinville had entered in the Belle Poule frigate, towed up the Tagus by the Lavoisier war steamer from L'Orient. The French corvette Iguala and brig-of-war Cassard were also at Lisbon. General Barlow, the new American minister at Lisbon, had arrived in the Margaret steamer.

It appears that the difficulty of raising the ways and means on the terms deemed eligible by Senor Avila, had well nigh occasioned that gentleman's resignation; but it was expected that the Government would be able to carry its views into effect on its own terms.

The election of the Lisbon corporation had terminated in favour of all the government candidates by considerable majorities. The municipal election at Oporto was also proceeding favourably to the government.

It was expected that the Cortes, on their meeting *pro forma* in January, would be adjourned for the despatch of business till March next.

Lord Howard de Walden, it was understood, had, in consequence of the abolition of the Portuguese differential duties, recommended our goverment to revoke the orders in council, establishing retaliatory duties against Portuguese shipping, and thus prevent the imposition of additional duties on goods imported in British shipping, which would otherwise take place on and after the 19th January. The change about to take place in the Spanish mission was looked upon with satisfaction at Lisbon. There was no doubt that subsequent to Lord Aberdeen's declaration, the demand as to the giving up of the political refugees had been abandoned. Oribe was a passenger to England by the Lynx schooner of war.

THE LEVANT.

The Levant mail brings advices from Constantinople to the 7th December. Izzet Pasha had been appointed Grand Vizier, in the room of Raouff Pasha. He is considered a sanguinary and incapable man; and on that account he was removed from the command of the Turkish forces in Syria.

According to accounts from Athens, King Otho has declined the mediation of the three powers to whom the Porte addressed complaints of his conduct. Turkey is said to be concentrating forces on Greece.

According to some accounts in the continental papers, intelligence had been received at Constantinople on the 1st instant, by way of Trebisond, of a victory gained by the Circassians over the Russians—the most signal and decisive, it is said, that has occurred since the beginning of the war. A large expedition, consisting of 30,000 men, had been disembarked on the coast, with a view of destroying the grain which had been collected by the Circassians after the harvest; when a storm which suddenly arose drove the ships from their anchorage. The Circassians, availing themselves of the opportunity, assailed the intruders fiercely on every side; and the Russians separated from their stores, which had been carried out to sea, were compelled to commence a disastrous retreat through a country consisting entirely of mountain, forest and defile. With the exception of 2,000, who escaped to Anapa, the whole of the 30,000 were killed or made prisoners. This news is not confirmed by the accounts direct from Constantinople.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

A meeting of the Southwark Anti-corn-law Association took place on Monday evening, at the Three Tuns Tavern, St. Margaret's hill, to discuss over a cup of tea the effects of the present corn-laws. The meeting was graced by the presence of a considerable number of ladies, and altogether there were about 200 persons present. Benjamin Hawes, Esq., M.P., presided, and was supported by Dr. Bowring, M.P.; J, Harris, Esq., M.P.; Col. P. Thompson; Sidney Smith, Esq.; and many of the leading reformers of the borough.

The Gresham Committee met on Friday last for the purpose of receiving the report of the sub-committee, appointed to make the requisite arrangements for the grand ceremony of laying the first stone of the new Royal Exchange. The arrangements are completed. The ceremony is to take place on Monday, the 17th of January, that day having been appointed by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who is to lay the first stone of the building. The site appointed by the committee is the foundation of one of the columns of the merchants' area, on the north side of the Ambulatory, the particular column being the one which is to be west of the centre opening or interval. This spot has been fixed upon as being relatively the same as that adopted when Charles the Second laid the first stone of the old Exchange, and is, in point of fact, very near the actual site. Round the stone the architect has constructed an amphitheatre, which will contain 1200 visitors. The whole of this large space will be roofed and decorated, so as to appear like an enormous tent, the roof being supported by a pillar in the centre. The company are to assemble between the hours of twelve and two. The Lord Mayor will give a splendid banquet in the evening at the Mansion-house, in honour of the occasion. Four hundred cards of invitation have been already issued, and there will be present, besides Prince Albert, all her Majesty's ministers, the judges, officers of state, the principal merchants of London, the aldermen, some of the members of the court of common council, the Gresham committee, and private friends of the Lord Mayor.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Oxford-street and its vicinity, was held last Thursday, at Clarke's auction-rooms, Holles-street, for the purpose of taking measures to oppose the proposition at present before the Marylebone vestry, that the further employment of the wooden pavement in Oxford-street should be postponed for three years. Mr Underwood said, he believed that the test the wooden pavement had undergone was quite sufficient to prove its advantage over granite; and he could not conceive how the vestry, after their former declaration, that a year would be sufficient to test the wooden pavement, could now for a moment entertain the proposition of extending the probationary period over three years. A series of resolutions were then passed expressive of the belief of the meeting in the success of the experiments already tried, deprecatory of any further delay in continuing the pavement, and condemning the conduct of the Marylebone vestry in entertaining the proposition in question, as one directly opposed to the interests and the repeatedly expressed wishes of the inhabitants of Oxford-street.

We are happy to hear that the worshipful company of Grocers have contributed twenty five pounds to that excellent institution, the British Penitent Female Refuge, 10, North Side, Bethnal green. Grants of twenty pounds have also been made by the worshipful company of Goldsmiths, and the worshipful company of Merchant Tailors. We hope that others will be induced to follow these noble examples.

We have understood that the final and revised statement of E. B. Smith to the treasury is to the following effect:—"That he was introduced so long back as 1820 to Rapallo, Solari, and one or two of their associates. That soon after, becoming entangled in accommodation bills, he was tempted to 'borrow' an exchequer-bill of £1000, in order to raise money to meet his acceptances. That a speculation was entered into by Rapallo and his friends, which, if successful, was to have extricated all parties from their difficulties. But it proved most unfortunate, and only plunged them into increased perplexity and trouble. That apparently it lay in his power at any time to secrete and misapply almost any number of bills, wanting only the signature; and by a simple forgery to turn them into good and valid exchequer-bills. That no person of rank or public character, whatever, was in any way mixed up in the transaction; the parties being, himself, Solari, Rapallo, and another individual, whose office was in Basinghall-street; at which place they used to meet and concert their plans. He believes the total amount fabricated to be about £340,000; but is doubtful whether a sum of £40,000, is or is not included in this total. He still maintains that this whole amount has been wasted, from time to time, in gambling transactions on the stock-exchange."—*Times.*

On Monday and Tuesday week there were no fewer than 15,000 persons, including many juveniles, who inspected the various works of art in the National Gallery. All conducted themselves with strict propriety.

The metropolis is expected to be more full about the end of next month than it has been for some years past; the business in Parliament will attract numbers to town, and many foreigners of distinction are expected to be present at the royal christening.

Last Thursday afternoon, for the first time, a plate with the words "Post-office," and the number of the house in black letters, was affixed on the lamp-posts and other most convenient places as near as possible to the several receiving houses in the metropolis.

As an illustration of the extreme distress in Spitalfields, it was stated at a meeting of the skein silk-dyers, that an unfortunate weaver, having with great difficulty procured a few potatoes for his starving children, their impatience and ravenous state made it necessary to keep them away from the dish by force otherwise they would have seized the hot potatoes, and injured their throats.

We understand that the copper in the kitchen premises of the Surrey chapel parsonage, used by the late Rev. Rowland Hill for the purpose of brewing his table beer, is devoted, by his successor, who is known to have adopted the principles of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, to a very different purpose. The Rev. James Sherman has converted the brewery into a soup kitchen. The soup is boiled in the same copper in which Mr Hill used to prepare his mash. To a boilerful of water is added a hundred-weight of meat; and a quart of soup and a two-penny loaf are sold for a penny, to such applicants as possess the proper ticket.—*Patriot.*

PROVINCIAL.

Sir James Graham visited Dorchester on Tuesday last, when he was received with a merry peal from the bells, a display of flags, and the greetings of his constituents. Having personally called on the electors on that and the following day, a dinner took place at the Antelope Hotel, when Sir James Graham, Bart, M.P., presided, supported by the Mayor, H. Williams, Esq., Robert Williams, jun., Esq., and the leading inhabitants of the town. The large room was quite full, Charles Henning, Esq., officiated in the vice-chair.

The West Riding Address to Lord Morpeth, has received 25,050 signatures: and towards the testimonial £1,430 9s. 3½d. has been subscribers. The presentation of the address will, of course, be deferred until his lordship's return to this country; though the gratification which awaits our late noble and excellent representative by the knowledge of the estimation in which his public services are held in the West Riding of Yorkshire, will be afforded to him with as little delay as his temporary separation from us, at a distance of 3,000 miles, will admit.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Addresses have been presented to Lord Melbourne, at Melbourne Hall, from the inhabitants of Derby and other places. About 2,000 persons went in procession on the occasion.

On Monday week Feargus O'Connor addressed a large assemblage in the great room at the back of No. 7, Kingsmead square, Bath, where he was presented with two addresses—one from the female and the other from the male chartists of Bath. His chief points were—1st. The gradual extension of chartism, once frowned down by the press, insulted by the middle classes, persecuted by the government, scorned by the mass of the public; now patronised by four millions of people, deemed of sufficient consequence to be reasoned with, consulted, propitiated, and fraternised with. 2nd. The refutation of the calumny that the chartists sought an equalisation of landed property; this, he said, was false; they sought only a full representation in the Commons, and then they would abrogate the corn laws. The consequence would be that the landowners would find it to their interest to parcel out the land in small tracts, instead of farms of 500 or 1000 acres, a large portion of which, from want of capital, could never be properly cultivated. He said that the landlords would thereby, not only have increased rent, but millions of people could be thereby profitably employed, and provided with all those comforts of life, in food, clothing, and shelter, which the labouring man is entitled to. He was much cheered and attentively listened to.—*Bath Herald.*

A meeting of chartists was held on Tuesday week, at the Hall of Science, Bristol, at which Feargus O'Connor and Vincent were present. Various resolutions in favour of the charter were proposed and carried.

A meeting of deputies from operative anti-corn-law associations, was held on New Year's Day, at the rooms of the League, in Manchester. Deputies from many of the principal towns in England and Scotland attended. A considerable number of communications were also received from associations which are not able to bear the expense of sending representatives to the meeting. Afterwards a public meeting of the inhabitants of Manchester was held at twelve o'clock in the Town hall, the large room of which was filled to overflowing. The meeting was held for the purpose of petitioning parliament against the corn laws.

The Ladies Memorial to the Queen on the Corn laws, has already received upwards of 50,000 of the signatures of the women of Manchester.

An important meeting of the woollen manufacturers of the counties of Gloucester, Wilts, and Somerset, will be held to-morrow, at the White Hart inn, Bath, to take into consideration the effect of the present corn laws on the foreign and home trade in the woollen manufacture, in the above counties.

On Thursday evening last, a soiree, got up for the purpose of enabling the inhabitants to demonstrate their opposition to the corn laws, was held in the Philosophical Hall, Huddersfield, and was attended by about 1,500 persons, a large number of whom were ladies. W. Brook, Esq., one of the largest manufacturers in the town, took the chair, and after tea the audience were addressed by W. R. C. Stansfeld, Esq., M.P., for the borough; George Thompson, Esq.; T. Plint, Esq., Leeds; Rev. G. Hurndall, Huddersfield; J. Batley, Esq., Huddersfield; F. Schwann, Esq., Huddersfield; and W. Williams, Esq., Huddersfield.

The Rev. H. O. Trewella delivered an address on the principles of peace, on Wednesday week, in the Scotch church, Blackett street, Newcastle, introductory to a course of lectures on the same subject, which the reverend gentleman proposes to commence in the present winter. Mr Trewella's leading position was, that war, under whatever circumstances, was totally opposed to the spirit and letter of Christ's holy gospel; and he also showed the ruinous impolicy of war, as illustrated by the condition of this nation, burdened with an immense debt, the heavy penalty of our past transgressions. The war in China, he contended, was characterised by gross injustice, and the honour of England demanded its speedy termination. On the following evening (Thursday) there was a meeting on the question of the Chinese war, in the place of worship belonging to the Society of Friends, Pilgrim street, Newcastle, when the following memorial to the Queen was unanimously adopted:—

"*To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.*

"May it please your Majesty—At a meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, held this day in the Friends' meeting house, it was resolved to lay before your Majesty this our humble and dutiful memorial.

"Under a deep sense of the manifold evils inseparable from war, and viewing it as a relic of ancient barbarism, and deeply lamenting its occurrence, under whatever circumstances, we humbly entreat your Majesty's attention to China, the most ancient, the most populous, and the most pacific empire in the world—12,000 miles distant from England—now suffering from the terrible scourge of war, inflicted by the subjects of your Majesty.

"This is the first time for many ages that China has been visited by fire, sword, and rapine, by a foreign people. The attempts of a few unprincipled English merchants (men hardly worthy of this honourable title) to force smuggled opium, a poisonous drug, upon the Chinese people, in defiance of the benevolent and humane precautions of their government, has drawn down this mean and atrocious war upon three hundred millions of our fellow creatures, and fellow heirs of immortality.

"The sufferers are heathens—the invaders are professing Christians. What a hopeless prospect does this war hold forth to the promulgation of the peaceful and blessed principles of the gospel among one-third of the human family!

"We know that it is the benevolent desire of your Majesty to reign over a prosperous and happy people; but believing as we do in the doctrine of a retributive Providence, we feel that we cannot expect the blessing of heaven upon us as a nation, whilst the innocent blood of our Chinese brethren thus cries against us from the ground. We labour also under the awful consciousness that we are not clear from the blood of souls. We find the government justifying its determined opposition to the gospel by the evil conduct of professing Christians; and we cannot conceive anything more calculated to confirm a nation in its heathen prejudices than the treatment which that benighted country has recently received from christian Britain.

"Deeply impressed with the great importance of these considerations, we earnestly implore your Majesty to exercise your high prerogative to put an end to this most unhallowed and disgraceful war, and to screen the unhappy people of China from the terrible curse of 'battle, murder, and sudden death,' from which Christians pray to be delivered; and may your Majesty ever remember that 'blessed are the peacemakers, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

"With dutiful affection to your Majesty's person and government, and humbly begging that you will pardon anything informal in the manner of this address, we again beg, respectfully yet earnestly, to entreat your Majesty's favourable considerations on behalf of a pacific and unoffending people.—*Newcastle, Dec.* 23, 1841."

The sum of 2,500*l.* has already been contributed to the charitable fund for the relief of the distressed poor in Nottingham.

Business continues in the same cheerless state at the Leeds cloth halls this week as for the last fortnight; and although the stocks generally are much lower than usual at this season, yet, from the very dull state of the demand, prices are nominal. The same dull state of trade continues in the warehouses: the purchases or orders for goods for the home demand are given with the greatest caution, and only for present use. Indeed, at no former period has there been so little speculation at this season of the year as at the present time, no one daring to purchase until it is known what the government intend to do for the relief of the commercial and manufacturing interest.—*Leeds Mercury.*

About one quarter of the workpeople usually employed in Leeds, when business is in a prosperous state, are now out of work.

The following is an extract of a letter from Tredegar, dated 27th of December ult. "There is little distress existing in our immediate neighbourhood as yet, but I fear to witness the coming month (January), as one fourth of the Sirhowy men have received notice to leave, and the remainder are to have their wages lowered again, and the quantity of work restricted. Tredegar works are not much better; I believe there will not be such a sweeping dismissal there, though in some departments I know of as many as seven out of nine are to be discharged immediately.

The receipts of the railways for the last week, that is to say, up to to the date to which the respective returns are made, are as follows:—Birmingham, £16,907; Great Western, £12,428; Midland Counties, £2,533; North Midland, £3,975; York and North Midland, £1,577; Hull and Selby, £810; Northern and Eastern, £1,121; Great North of England, £1,200; Eastern Counties, 799; Birmingham and Gloucester, £1,767; South Western, £4,449; Birmingham and Derby, £1,145; Manchester and Birmingham, £400; Manchester and Leeds, £4,004; Blackwall, £583.

IRELAND.

Lord Morpeth is to be put in nomination for the City of Dublin, at the ensuing election. The liberals held a private meeting on Friday last, at Charlemont House (the Lord Mayor in the chair), when it was resolved, on the motion of Mr Hutton—the brother of the late member—that his lordship was a fit and proper person to represent the Irish metropolis, and that he should therefore be put in nomination. It was subsequently moved by Alderman Purcell, that the reformers should pledge themselves to exert all their energies, and employ all constitutional means to secure Lord Morpeth's return; fully satisfied that by union and co-operation, they would easily rescue the representation of the City from the tory party. At a subsequent stage of the proceedings a resolution was proposed, and passed, to the effect that a public meeting of the citizens should be held at the round room of the Mansion house on Monday next, for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements to secure the return of the noble lord. The utmost enthusiasm and unanimity were manifested by the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings. A spirit of admiration of the qualities for which Lord Morpeth is pre-eminently distinguished, pervaded the entire meeting. Upwards of one thousand pounds were subscribed towards defraying the expenses of the election.

The steamer which plies on the Shannon, between Portumna and Limerick, which was due on Thursday evening at eight o'clock, had not arrived up to eight o'clock the following morning. A report was then prevalent that she had foundered during the night, in consequence of the darkness, and that she had gone down, with 36 souls on board.

SCOTLAND.

A vacancy has occurred in the representation of Forfarshire, in consequence of the death of Lord Douglas Gordon Halyburton, M.P., for Forfarshire which took place on the evening of Christmas day, at nine p. m., at his lordship's town residence, Warren's Hotel, Regent street.

Partly on account of the great depression of trade, and partly on account of a run raised by the circulation of malicious and false statements regarding the affairs of the community of Paisley, the town council, at a meeting on Wednesday evening, ordered the chamberlain to suspend receipt or payment of deposits in the meantime, but to proceed with all possible despatch in realising the outstanding debts due to the community for the regular payment of the interest on the money borrowed, and other current engagements of the burgh. The unfavourable state of trade and the leniency of the council in not enforcing during the last year the exactions on the owners of property, for entries, &c., falling due, caused a deficiency of nearly 300*l.* in the usual amount of revenue. The council have been negotiating for such a loan of money as will pay off those who are dissatisfied, which in the ordinary state of the money market they would long since have obtained, though at present that is difficult. As regards risk to the creditors, from the best informed quarters we are assured there is none. More than one-third of the whole debts of the town are due to the bank, and the members of the council or their immediate friends, and fully a half of the debt against the river is due to the same parties. This we should conceive the strongest proof that could be adduced of the confidence of those who should best know the state of the town's affairs.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

We understand that Mr Thomas Carlyle has declined becoming a candidate for the chair of history, now vacant in the University of Edinburgh. Mr Carlyle has communicated this determination to the student who acted as secretary in getting up the requisition to the faculty of advocates in his favour.—*Scotsman.*

On Friday, the 17th of December, the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, made a trip, preliminary to the opening, which it is supposed will take place on the 1st of February.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, January 5th, 1842.

The revenue returns for the quarter will not be made up until the evening of the 5th inst., (this evening) and until then it must be impossible to speak with absolute certainty as to the result. It is expected, however, that in the customs there will be an increase on the year of about 100,000*l.*; whilst the increase on the quarter, as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, will be about 400,000*l.* Of the excise, and stamps and taxes, we can speak with no certainty, but, doubtless, the stringent regulation for the transmission of the revenue from the country within a period much shorter than heretofore allowed must have great effect in bringing to the account of the present quarter a large amount of duties, which otherwise would have stood over until the April one.—*Observer.*

We learn that a large quantity of land in course for wheat is not sown—that the farmers are far from being either in a satisfied or flourishing condition—that last year was not at all a good one for them, and present appearances, which exhibit to them the prospect of falling prices for the coming two or three years, while their rents have greatly increased during the two or three past years, tend to elicit much grumbling and discontent. They are as a mass uneasy, and begin to see the fact that the corn laws are the landlords' profit, while they are afraid to own they wish for change.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Islington was held last evening at Canonbury Tavern, to hear a lecture on the corn laws from Mr Sidney Smith. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a most numerous attendance, including many of the leading liberals of the district. There were nearly 1,000 persons present. Dr Price was unanimously called to the chair.

On Monday there was a meeting of the citizens of Dublin, in the great round room of the Mansion house, called by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, to adopt means for securing the return of Lord Morpeth, as representative of the city. At half-past one o'clock the Lord Mayor entered the building, which was then densely crowded in every part. All the leading reformers were present. His lordship was greeted with protracted cheering. Sir John Power, Bart, moved a resolution to the effect "That a vacancy having occurred in the representation of this City, it was adviseable to return a friend to reform and civil and religious liberty," which was carried almost unanimously. A list of subscriptions, amounting to about 1,200*l.* was read amid great applause.

CORN MARKET. Mark Lane, This Day.

The supply this morning is scanty, and the market very dull, at drooping prices.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. H. Sprague." We cannot alter a quotation from a classical author. Our motto is from Burke.

"A.B.C." respectfully declined. Some of our readers may think his proposed new-year's toast, no bad one—"The stability of the *Nonconformist*." We beg to suggest, however, that wishes which end in wine, are of little value.

"An old Oxonian." We do not insert poetry.

"J. S." We know of no work which answers the description given.

"Fred. Trestrail," under consideration.

"A. N." in our next.

If "A Rochdale Chartist" will give us a digest of the national petition we will insert it. Our objection to insert it entire, is its length. We regard our last notice as applicable to the gist of his first letter.

"A London Chartist." We are aiming to draw the middle classes into serious consideration of a great principle. We therefore substitute a term which, besides being in our judgment more correct, will not drive into hostility those whom we first wish to hear what we have to say.

We respectfully request our country friends, in all possible cases, to give their orders to the news agents in their respective localities; where this is impracticable, the better way is to send the amount of subscription (20*s.* per annum) by post-office order, direct to the office, which will secure the regular transmission of the paper to their address.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1842.

SUMMARY.

THREE foreign state papers of no mean importance claim our notice in this opening number of our second volume — President Tyler's message to congress, the speech of the King of the French, and that of the Regent of Spain, at the opening of the respective legislatures of the two countries. Of the former document we have given an abridgement—both the latter we have inserted entire.

The President's message in its opening paragraph presents a picture of the results of democratic institutions, which contrasts somewhat vividly with that exhibited at this moment by an oligarchical government nearer home.

"We are in the enjoyment of all the blessings of civil and religious liberty, with unexampled means of education, knowledge, and improvement. Through the year which is now drawing to a close peace has been in our borders, and plenty in our habitations; and although disease has visited some few portions of the land with distress and mortality, yet in general the health of the people has been preserved, and we are all called upon, by the highest obligations of duty, to renew our thanks and our devotion to our Heavenly Parent, who has continued to vouchsafe to us the eminent blessings which surround us, and who has so signally crowned the year with his goodness."

"The blessings of civil and religious liberty!"—"plenty in our habitations!"—why can America say this, whilst Britain vainly deplores her want of both? Ask a national church—ask a landowning legislature—ask an oligarchy which has ground down to powder a great, intelligent, and moral people. The sneers which it has been fashionable to indulge in against universal suffrage and the ballot, are best answered by that one paragraph—when will our glorious constitution in church and state give us equally substantial benefits with these? Ah! we are a befooled people. Spain itself will soon get the start of us. The speech of the Regent intimates that that fine country is happily passing through a process of regeneration, and will succeed in consolidating free institutions which will aid her in developing her great resources. The document is worthy of attentive perusal. France, like Paris, seems wall-bound. Martial glory is putting out one by one the watch-fires of public liberty—not without some protestation, as witness the remonstrance of the Literary Association, and the public journals, against the condemnation of M. Dupoty. The King's speech is a frigid affair—very similar to like productions of our own. No mention is made of Spain—a prudent reserve perhaps—and the recent slave-treaty is passed by in silence.

The domestic intelligence is scanty. The "complete suffrage" movement is making important progress, as our readers will learn from the letter of Joseph Sturge, Esq., to be found in another column. Mr William Biggs, of Leicester, who has published a Midland Counties Charter, will, we trust, see the wisdom of yielding a point or two of minor importance, and join the prior movement which nothing now can effectually stay. That Mr Sturge has recognised the *Nonconformist* as the organ of this new movement, whilst it cannot fail to gratify us, makes us conscious at the same time of an additional amount of responsibility. As Mr Sturge is not committed to our opinions, any further than he may deem them reasonable, so, in justice to our own independence, we hold ourselves perfectly unshackled, and shall continue to pursue that course which we deem most likely to accomplish the great end in view.

The attempt to obtain a church rate at Leeds has given rise to a controversy which, but for crowded space, we should have liked to notice this week, but which, for the sake of elucidating great principles and holding up a warning to dissenters of the inconsistency of too many of its leading men, we shall comment upon in our next.

THE NEW YEAR.

THE new year opens upon us gloomily—like a cloudy morning. The political firmament is lowering and murky—and the signs of the times, to the eye of a common observer, wear a threatening aspect. Whether we are to have storm or sunshine is a question which none but the unthinking are rash enough to predict. Perhaps at no former time has the issue been more doubtful. Never have we been so completely hedged about by the present. Thick mists hang about our path and overhead. We have no insight into the future. We are made to feel all the feebleness of human powers of penetration. All that we know for certainty is, that we are in a position of danger, and that we cannot long remain where we are. Narrow legislation has conducted us to the brink of national ruin. If we escape at all, it must be soon—if not, we shall quickly know the worst.

The matter is now brought to this pass—and herein consists the striking difference between the commencement of this year and the opening of the last. We know where we are, and we are convinced at length that we must act for ourselves. That strong delusion under the influence of which the country was tamely following in the footsteps of a whig cabinet, the yawning pit before us has suddenly but effectually dispelled. How many good men and true were, until recently, blinded with excess of confidence—and under feelings more easily to be accounted for than justified, quarrelling with principles with which they had all their lives long familiarly conversed and lived in cordial friendship! Then was exhibited a spectacle which we fondly hope never again to witness—honest men pouting at truth—angry with it because it changed not with the change of their temperament, and well nigh ready to forswear it as an obstinate, pragmatical, and unreasonable thing. A secret consciousness that they had injured what it had been in former days their pride to serve, produced an irritation of mind which could find relief in nothing but passionate vituperation of an old friend—making the reproach of a good cause serve instead of self-reproach That was a sight more piteous than any we have before us at the present moment—the nerve of political morality gone, and childish imbecility united with childish fretfulness characterising the public mind. The heart of this great nation had well nigh ceased to beat. To all appearance political life was on the eve of extinction. There was a universal stupor—the drivelling of disease in its last stage—an eye without lustre—an arm without strength—an inward sickness—a mortal coldness in the extremities—an inarticulate moan—convulsive twitchings—the first hue of death.

These worst and most formidable symptoms have passed away. The country is restored to consciousness, and every nerve of it is acutely sensitive to passing events. There is a full soul which looks out from its eye, and watches with intense solicitude every external movement. The whig mania is over, and the lucid interval is marked by unwonted keenness of spirit. They who think to wheedle and deceive the people now, undertake a hopeless task. Words cannot charm them into forgetfulness of wants. Showy and superficial policy is but little likely, at the present moment, to dazzle their senses, and those must be skilful passes indeed which can once more cast them into mesmeric slumber. The cool, calm, resolute air with which they await the development of Sir Robert Peel's policy, certain as they are that it will be diametrically opposite to their interests, is a marvellous—aye! a terrible thing. It bodes not well for the aristocracy. The character of popular agitations is changed. No noise! no flaring of banners, and wasting of breath in unmeaning shouts—but just such an interchange of thought and feeling as actual business requires, and that given in tones of quiet but concentrated energy which it is difficult to mistake. Whether power can crush a great nation whose will is thus wound up, time will soon show—but pretence will not delude them. Hollow conventional forms have had their day. They are now known to be hollow. Within a little it will be seen that the country must henceforth be ruled by sheer might, or by undisguised and eternal right.

Another feature of the times is worth marking, presenting as it does a broad contrast to that state of public feeling which existed last year. The middle and the labouring classes, driven by anti-national policy into one common danger, and exposed to one impending doom, begin to discern the folly and to lament the fruits of mutual division. Stress of misery compels them to look into one another's faces—to exchange words of greeting—to think, even if they do not give expression to their thought—"Cannot we two be one?" And the strong necessity of the case is brushing away on both sides unkind and unreasonable prejudices—is disposing each to forgiveness, and gradually clearing away the existing obstacles to union. On the part of the middle class there is a growing conviction that the working men of this empire have been harshly dealt with—on the part of the working men, a consciousness that their just claims have been urged with a violence of spirit, not only blameworthy in itself, but seriously mischievous to the cause they have in hand—and each sees in the other more to command respect than they had done before. And this budding spirit of kindliness and unity bids fair to ripen into cordial friendship. A little forbearance on either hand, a little quiet reflection, a little exercise of patience, and the difference between them will admit of settlement.

Add to this, that the people are acquainted with the seat and source of the evil, and have a glimpse, too, of the remedy. Class legislation has been the prolific parent of national distress—complete representation, and nothing short of complete representation, promises a cure. The labouring classes have long felt this, and somewhat angrily insisted upon it. Only of late have the middle classes begun to suspect that at the bottom of all the noise which has been made about this matter, there is a broad and deep sub-

stratum of truth. But they are manifestly anxious by present activity to atone for past supineness—and all appearances indicate that ere the present year closes the question of the suffrage will become paramount. The great struggle between the many and the few, between rights and privileges, between realities and pretences, is setting in. The tide has turned and is advancing with a rapidity which is ominous to aristocratic institutions. Many a Canute will bid it roll back. Does there exist one whose voice will prevail?

Such, then, is the aspect of affairs at the opening of a new year. These are the features of the times most worthy of being noted. What will be, he would be a presumptuous man who would venture to predict. Here is an oppressed people wide awake—no longer to be deluded by aristocratic seemings—a once divided people panting for union and engaged in making first advances towards the needed consummation—a people who have discovered the real cause of their misery, and who have no misty notions of the only remedy. Such a people it is just possible that conventional forms armed with the powers of government may continue to trample in the dust. But surely likelihoods are against it.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES CHARTER.

THE *Leicestershire Mercury* of Saturday last contains a lengthy but able document, the production of William Biggs, Esq., proposing certain amendments of "the people's charter," with a view to unite in a movement for political reform the energies of the middle and the labouring classes. It is too long to insert in our columns—and as its distinctive features may be pointed out in a few words, it will not be necessary. We have read it throughout with close and impartial attention, and we now proceed, in a spirit of goodwill, and not without a deep sense of our responsibility, to deliver our deliberate judgment upon it.

The "amended charter," like that emphatically entitled "the people's," takes up the following points—the suffrage, the ballot, electoral districts, the duration of parliament, the qualification and the payment of members. In respect of the last five points, it proposes no alteration of the elder document, with the exception of substituting triennial for annual parliaments. It also adopts the principle of universal suffrage, subject, however, to checks in two particulars more stringent than those proposed by the chartists—requiring a twelvemonths' residence in the place of six, and fixing twenty-five instead of twenty-one years as the age to be attained by electors before the franchise is entrusted to them. This is, in sum, the Midland Counties Charter.

Before entering upon a discussion of this document we think it due to Mr Biggs to admit, that it is written with great ability, that the reform it proposes is substantial, not nominal only, and that it is, in its provisions, entirely devoid of class restrictions. Its appearance indicates, that the accession of the tories to power has given a mighty impulse to the cause of the people, and that the removal of the whigs has restored to more than its wonted elasticity the reforming spirit of the present day. Leading men of the middle class are beginning to shake off the lethargy with which the opiate of whig professions had fairly overcome them; and as, one by one, they are brought round to consciousness by the cold water of tory rule, they discern the amazing difference there is between the airy dreams of a stimulated fancy and the obstinate realities of actual and waking life. We hail their restoration to the ranks which for a brief period, and under a temporary hallucination, they quitted—and we trust the time is not far distant, when reformers of every class will be again animated with one soul, and march down in one compact and irresistible phalanx upon the common foe.

We are under the disagreeable necessity of saying one word of ourselves, and, having done so, we dismiss all preliminary matter. Mr Biggs has done us the honor to quote from our columns, and whilst we acquit him of any intentional misrepresentation, we must take the liberty of remarking, that if his other quotations are managed after the same fashion, their authority is not to be relied on. In an article entitled "Objections to complete suffrage—revolutionary designs of the labouring classes," we drew up in the strongest possible language a statement of the objection entertained by the middle classes to equal political rights, founded upon their distrust of the honesty and peaceful bearing of the poor. This objection we proceeded at some length to demolish. Mr Biggs has quoted our representation of the sentiments cherished by the middle classes, as though they were our own—and leaves upon his reader's mind an impression, that we hold an opinion, which we adduced and overstated for the simple purpose of refuting it.

Our remarks upon this document will range themselves most conveniently under the following heads. The object, occasion, and time, of its introduction to the public—and the character and provisions of the plan itself, considered simply in a practical light.

The object we take to be, the construction of a substantial platform upon which the united efforts of all classes of reformers may be based with the greatest probability of success. It is consequently impossible to exclude from our minds the consideration, that it comes before the public *after* an initiatory declaration put forth by a man, who perhaps in a higher degree than any other individual has the confidence of both the middle class and the working men. The former can trust to his prudence—the latter have faith in his sincerity. He is acting as the delegate of a large and influential body, and his energy and perseverance have won for him all that moral power which is always conferred by success in previous undertakings. We must say, we think it was due to the character of Joseph Sturge, due to the body who committed the cause to his keeping, and due to the magnitude of the cause itself, to refrain from distracting public attention, and multiplying the chances of division of opinion, by the introduction, upon individual responsibility alone, of a separate movement, before the other had been allowed fairly to develop itself. Mr Biggs justifies this procedure by pleading that the promulgation of an abstract principle will be found insufficient to secure union of effort. Does Mr Biggs suppose that a simple declaration of principle was to be the all in all of this new movement for the suffrage? Is it not wise, and philosophical, and statesmanlike, where great parties are divided, to ascertain first by actual experiment, whether there be not some common principle in which both may meet and shake hands, proceeding afterwards in concert to the construction of practical machinery through which it may find the most perfect expression? Mr Sturge's declaration sums up the moral of the whole question. It places it in all its own beautiful simplicity before the mind. It is understood at a glance. Its proportions are seen at one view. There is the soul for which we want to find a becoming body. Are we all agreed upon that? Now with respectful deference to Mr Biggs, we take it, that Mr Sturge's course is the natural one, and that this is not the time nor the occasion for thrusting beneath the public eye measured and detailed plans of our own, which, even if good in themselves, are likely from the multiplicity of their details rather to beget difference than to secure harmony.

The plan itself is, we think, not less open to objection. The principles embodied in "the people's charter" have our approval, without a single exception, and on behalf of every one of them we hold ourselves ready to enter the lists of argument. But we have always felt that, as a whole, the charter was a serious mistake—simply because it has thrown into one mass so many and such various political ingredients, and has blended matters of principle and matters of opinion into union so intimate, as to render it impossible to determine whether the conglomerate body belongs to the world of morals or of mind. Now we hold the franchise to be a right—we think the foundations upon which it rests are both solid and deep—we imagine that, had public attention been exclusively directed to this one substantial subject, it would by this time have become well nigh irresistible. There are moral considerations to be adduced in favour of it, the force of which, however men might wish to evade, they could not but feel. Unlike the charter, it has neither angles nor inequalities behind which people run to hide their dislike of the great principle of equal political rights. Hence, among the enfranchised classes the charter has made but little way. Even now, there are thousands amongst them who are avowedly ignorant of what it contains—and thousands more who, agreeing in opinion that equal political rights are due to all, yet refuse to pledge themselves to a string of political opinions with which those rights have been unwisely associated. Mr Biggs's plan retains the same unstatesmanlike assortment of heterogeneous subjects. Its want of simplicity alone would render its success hopeless.

Nor do we see anything so much more valuable in a twelvemonths' residence, and twenty-five years of age, regarded as pre-requisites of the franchise over six months' residence and twenty-one years of age, as to render an entire change of the principles upon which complete suffrage is based, either necessary or justifiable. Were the whole matter talked over now for the first time, we will not aver that Mr Biggs might not adduce strong arguments why the one set of checks upon the suffrage were to be preferred to the other. But why, when the other plan has been some years before the world, when it is based upon intelligible principles, and when it affords a guarantee for the fit exercise of the franchise, but an inconsiderable fraction less trustworthy than that proposed by Mr Biggs—why now, at the commencement of an important movement, the suspicions of working men are to be excited by provisions which after all will not allay the fears of the middle classes, is to our minds, we confess, a question to which we can furnish no satisfactory reply. For ourselves, we are gratified to find Mr Biggs within so small a distance of the position we occupy. We see that between him and Mr Sturge, who commenced the movement and to whose leadership it has tacitly if not expressly been committed, there is no such difference as to justify separation—and we cordially invite Mr Biggs to refrain from pressing matters of no serious moment, and throw his great talents, his influence and his energies, into a cause which is already making rapid progress.

Mr Biggs speaks of devolving upon dissenting ministers the responsibility of formally introducing his charter to the public. We have no doubt there is some mistake here. We have never sympathised with those who would debar ministers from the enjoyment of their rights as citizens—but, really, we imagine them to have far higher claims upon their notice than could consist with sitting as reverend conclaves to determine all the moot points of politics. They cannot, we think, have been consulted in this arrangement.

THE PET CORPORATION.

MOST of our readers are aware that the measure upon which the Melbourne whigs found their claim to the gratitude of the nation—the measure to which they so often refer with exultation—is that of corporation reform. We certainly shall not be found among their detractors as far as this part of their political work is concerned. We give them every credit for sincerity of purpose, as well as for the talent with which that purpose was carried out, but we never could understand why it was, that when the cities of Bristol, Exeter, and Coventry, and all the corporate towns in England were purged of their corporation iniquities, the CITY OF LONDON—the great cess-pool of corruption, was alone allowed to remain. Whether it was that these politicians were fearful that the public would forget, or that posterity would not duly appreciate, the magnitude of the reform unless some striking example was left, by way

of comparison—some many headed monster containing within itself all the evils of all the abolished corporations to which they might refer their doubting friends;—or whether it was that the possessors of any of the good things connected with this particular corporation, found favour in the sight of certain whig commissioners, we know not—but this we know—that here is a corporation, allowed to remain in rampant existence, that glories in having within herself every class of evil enumerated in the report of the corporation commissioners—the existence of any one of which was considered by the Melbourne whigs as a good and sufficient cause for the total annihilation of a provincial sister.

Wherever large bodies of men are congregated, you must apply some principle of government if you wish the community to be either prosperous or happy; and no principles could be found more consonant to the habits and feelings of Englishmen, than the principles of self government, which were fostered by the charters of incorporation, scattered over the country. And it was only when the original intention of the charter was violated—when a few usurped the benefits intended for the many, and when the bequests of our industrious ancestors, instead of being applied to relieve the necessitious, were merely a scramble among the time servers of a party—when it had become apparent to all, that the time had passed when society could derive any benefit from the continuance of such institutions—that the government of Lord Melbourne (to their credit be it spoken) stepped in and infused into these corporations new blood and energy from without, in the shape of real representation instead of the fiction before acted upon.

The feature that most strikes us in contemplating the London corporation, is its perfectly isolated character—"among men, but not of men." Your wealthy first class merchants avoid it as a pestilence, and know nothing of it except when it crosses their path in the shape of some vexatious exaction. The masses have no interest in it, for the whole constituency that return the common council scarcely amount to a tithe of the number that return the four members of parliament. Surely if the £10 householder is supposed to be competent to decide on the fitness of a member of parliament he may be safely trusted with the electing a fit and proper person to eat the dinners of the common council of the City.

Its isolated character is not its worst feature. It pretends to have popular sympathies—it shams liberal principles, and even goes so far as to talk about the atrocity of corn laws, while as Lord of the City, it exacts a fee for every quarter of corn imported, and takes a toll for every cabbage sold in the city market—not a toll, let it be understood, just adequate to the providing of necessary market accommodation, but a revenue-creating toll. Fifty odd thousand pounds are carried to the city accounts, under the head of—*Bequests*, *Tolls*, and *Fines*, for the year 1840. Why lump these items? The latter is a very small amount, and we believe bequests to the City to be rare in the present day; so that it would be found, if this sum was fairly analysed, that the greatest part of it was derived from a tax on the food of the poor.

We propose to return to this subject. We are aware of the powers of the vested interests, but we mean to try if a little light cannot be cast on the murky path. We mean to take an opportunity of showing the cases where the stupid exactions of the corporation, and the persisting in obsolete regulations, have driven the commerce to other cities. We mean to point out these things, for the common weal, but while we do so, we wish to be clearly understood, that however bad these things are in themselves, we hold them as nothing in comparison to the withering and blighting influences produced on the minds of all those who take part in a corporation so constituted. They lend themselves to a sham—the sham must be defended—the truth must be blinked; and it frequently happens, that men who enter the corporation with the purest intentions, become, after a little time, the mere creatures of jobbing and expediency.

We have heard that her Majesty has already announced to the proper authorities that it is her intention to open the ensuing session of parliament in person with a speech from the throne; and it is generally expected, from the alterations and embellishments now going forward in the House of Lords, that our beloved Sovereign will be accompanied on that important and interesting occasion by all the Royal and distinguished foreigners invited to witness the christening of the infant Prince of Wales.—*Standard.*

The report is current in well-informed circles that the title of King Consort will be conferred on Prince Albert.

The *Times* announces that "the Right Hon. Lord Ashburton, at the request of her Majesty's government, is about to proceed to the United States on a special mission, with the object of settling all existing differences between that country and our own;" and that "his lordship, who will sail in a few weeks, had been asked to undertake this service, and had consented to do so, before the President's message had been received; so that the mission in question, whatever be its character or results, has been had recourse to wholly irrespective of anything contained or omitted in that document."

In the number just issued of a statistical periodical, *Facts and Figures*, it is stated in a leading article, that "The government are, we are assured, making a modification of the corn laws, *and a low tariff on a broad scale.*" It is to be doubted whether, if the latter assertion were true, other publications would not have had some intimation of it.

Many important improvements in the post office department are in contemplation by the Right Hon. Lord Lowther, the Postmaster-General, not only with respect to the transmission of letters and newspapers to foreign parts, but also inland by railway trains, morning and evening, to districts where there is at present only one delivery every other day, especially in several small towns and villages not post office stations.

A rumour is gaining ground that the government have decided upon raising the postage from one penny to three pence.

In the course of the last week a deputation from the London Mercantile Committee on Postage, consisting of Sir G. Larpent, Messrs. Travers, Lestock, Wilson, and Moffatt, had an interview with the Postmaster-general, for the purpose of urging upon his lordship the desirability, as well for the interests of the revenue as for those of the public, of perfecting Mr. Rowland Hill's plan of penny postage. The chief points brought before his lordship were those of increased facilities for posting and delivering letters in the metropolis and the suburbs, similar measures in the chief provincial towns, and an extension of post-office conveniences to country districts at present destitute of them. The statements of the deputation received every attention from the Postmaster-general, who expressed his desire to give them his best consideration, and assured them that there was equal willingness with himself as with his predecessor to carry out Mr. Hill's plan.

Extraordinary as it may appear, we have reason to believe, that upwards of eighty thousand pounds of exchequer bills, which have been stamped by the Government as genuine, are spurious, notwithstanding that warranty.—*Sun.*

The *Globe* of Thursday states that the government have at length resolved to meet the question of compensation to the innocent holders of the Exchequer bills "upon equitable grounds;" and, taking for granted its non-liability in a legal sense, it has determined to state to the House of Commons the facts of the case, leaving it to that body to deal with it. "The Chancellor of the Exchequer," it is said, "will probably bring the matter forward; and, without denying the laxity that has hitherto been allowed to prevail in the exchequer bill department, will propose that the parties who have really taken the forged documents, under circumstances showing no ground for believing that they could have suspected fraud, shall be indemnified to the full amount of their fictitious securities."

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Fatal Explosion on the Bristol and Gloucester Railway.—Accidents attended with loss of life have of late been so frequent upon the lines of railway that have been completed and those which are in progress, that before even the verdict of the coroner's jury has been delivered in the one case, another fatal accident is announced to the public. Yesterday week another of these fatal accidents took place on the Bristol and Gloucester Railway, which is unfinished, at shaft No. 5, near the entrance of a tunnel, running within two fields of the town of Wickwar, about 15 miles from Bristol, and by which three men lost their lives on the spot, and five more so seriously injured as to be conveyed to the Bristol Infirmary. It appears that a quantity of gunpowder, which had been slightly damaged by damp, was placed in the blacksmith's shop of the works, close to the entrace of the tunnel, for security. The blacksmith having been ordered to sharpen some of the workmen's tools, proceeded to do so, unaware of the presence of the powder; while by some means a spark communicated therewith and an explosion took place which caused the fatal results stated above.

Deaths by Fire.—On Tuesday week an inquest was held in Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, on the body of Mrs. Amy Wilson, aged 38, a respectable married woman. It appeared that the deceased was amusing herself with her children, when unhappily going too near the fire, her gown caught, and she was soon in a blaze. All her apparel was consumed from her person, which was frightfully scorched. The poor woman died on Tuesday morning.——Another inquest was held on the body of Emma Bristow, aged six years, who lived in Granby place, New cut, Lambeth. On Monday evening she was playing with other children in a room in which was a fire, when her clothes caught, and she was soon enveloped in flames; her screams brought several of the lodgers to her assistance, who, after great difficulty and danger, succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not before the poor little sufferer was so dreadfully burnt all over, that she expired a few hours after.

Deaths from Starvation.—An inquest was held last Wednesday, on the body of Frances Goodwin, aged 45. Johanna Desmond, of Irish alley, Well street, Poplar, said that on Thursday night last the deceased called at her house, and begged a night's lodging, as she was destitute, and did not know where else to apply. Witness gave her a bed, and on the following morning, observing her weak state, she gave her some food. Deceased said that she was starving. Witness then put her to bed, and gradually growing weaker, deceased died on Saturday morning. Thompson, the constable, said that the deceased belonged to Holy Cross, Essex, that she applied to the workhouse, at Poplar, but assistance was refused, as she objected to return to Essex. ——Another inquest was held on view of the body of Robert Jenkins, aged 60. Dr. Lynch, of Snowhill, deposed that he was called in to see the deceased, whom he found lying on the floor, with a very little covering over him, in a wretched hovel over the Fleet ditch. The body was very much emaciated. He inquired of the landlady whether the deceased had had proper food, and she said he had not; he had two turnips for dinner on Christmas day, and that he drank the water with salt in it after she cooked a few potatoes. He said it was shocking to see a fellow creature die of starvation, and not to assist him, when she replied that they were nearly in the same state themselves, having had very little to eat for the previous three days.

Alarming Illness of Nine Persons from taking Mutton Broth.—Last week the inmates in the house of Mr Carman, Faulkner street, Manchester, were thrown into a state of great alarm, caused by the sudden indisposition of nine individuals, shortly after eating their dinner. It seems that Mr. and Mrs. Baker and two daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Holl, have apartments at Mr. Carman's; and that, on Monday, at dinner, they, as well as Mr. Carman and his two daughters, partook of some mutton broth, and shortly afterwards, the Misses Baker, complained of a sensation of great heat in the throat and stomach. This was followed by violent vomiting. Mr. Holl and all the persons we have named subsequently experienced similar symptoms apparently in the same proportion in which they had partaken of the broth. Mr. Baker's attention was first attracted to the broth, by perceiving a peculiar sweetness in tasting it. Surgeons were promptly called in, and succeeded, by administering strong emetics, in placing

all the sufferers out of danger. There seems strong reason for supposing that some exceedingly deleterious substance, probably arsenic, has, by some means unknown, become mixed with the oatmeal which was used for the thickening of the broth, and which had been in the house some time. All who partook of the broth are still suffering severely from the injurious effects of the deleterious substance.

THE CLIMATE.—Meteorologists assume that throughout Europe a milder and more genial climate had formerly prevailed, but this supposition is destitute of historical evidence; the thermometer was not invented till 1590, by the celebrated Sanctorio; nor was that valuable instrument reduced to a correct standard before the year 1724, by the skill of Fahrenheight. We have hence no observations of temperature which go further back than the beginning of the last century. Anterior to that period the endurance of frost and snow, the state of the harvest, and the quality of the vintage, are only to be gathered from vague and scanty notices scattered through the old chronicles; the most generally received authority is that of Pilgrom, who published a book in the German language at Vienna, in 1788, giving some account of the state of the weather for more than a thousand years back. From the details there given it would appear that the climate of Europe has acquired rather a milder character, or at least that its severity seems on the whole to be of rarer occurrence. The most rigid winter on record seems that of 1709, called by distinction the "cold winter." All the rivers and lakes were frozen to the bottom, and even the seas were ice-bound to the distance of several miles from the shore. Birds and beasts were strewed dead in the fields, and human beings perished by thousands in their houses. In England wheat rose in price from 2*l.* to 4*l.* per quarter. The year 1740 was also very cold, a whole ox being roasted on the Thames. The years of extreme heat were much less frequent, the most remarkable being 1788 and 1811, the latter distinguished by its excellent vintage, and the appearance of a brilliant comet.

INHABITED AND UNINHABITED HOUSES IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The recent population returns show an increase in the number of habitable houses within the last forty years, of no less than 89 per cent., whilst the population has only increased during the same period in the average of 78 per cent. In 1811 the actual increase of inhabited houses was 231,121, in 1821 it was 328,033, in 1831 there were 421,307, and in 1841 it was not less than 593,911. The per centage proportion of empty habitable houses stands, however, very disadvantageous, as in 1801 they were 3.45 per cent, in 1811 as low as 2.88, in 1821 they were 3.27, in 1831 they were 4.44, and in 1841 no fewer than 5.41 per cent. It appears, therefore, that in the present year there are nearly one-fourth more houses empty than there were in 1831.

THE SLIDING SCALES.—To show at a glance the operations of the present law, the plan bruted in the *Globe*, and Mr Christopher's tory proposition, we will give the three scales in juxta position.

Price.	Present duty.	*Globe's* plan.	Mr Christopher's.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
73	1 0	4 0	5 0
72	2 8	4 0	6 0
71	6 6	4 0	7 0
70	10 8	4 0	8 0
69	13 4	4 0	9 0
68	16 8	4 0	10 0
67	18 8	5 0	11 0

and so in proportion, the present duty rising rapidly with every fall of 1s. in price, and the other plans advancing 1s. in the same proportion.

SUAVITER AT FORTITER.—There is something peculiarly shocking to female sensibility in the form resorted to by many a morose husband, when he *posts* a thriftless or disobedient wife in the newspapers:—I caution the public against giving any credit to my wife, Jane Nokes, *alias* Styles, as I will not be answerable for any debts she may contract in my name, after the date of these presents.

(Signed) "JOHN-A-NOKES."

But Mr Power, of Kilmacthomas, who has lately adopted that extreme measure of *stopping the supplies*, does it in such a manner as to be firm as Lord De Grey himself, while he is positively complimentary to the lady. He fetters her with a thread of silk.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'WATERFORD MAIL.'

"Sir—I enclose you 2s. 6d. to insert in your *Mail* that know person shall get credit on my account, not even my wife. I remain,

"Sir, your obedient servant,

"*Kilmac thos December* 4, 1841. JAMES POWER."

"Not even my wife!" With what a pretty reluctance he includes that "cleaving mischief" among the prohibited degrees of his schedule A., as if nothing but sheer legal necessity could have obliged him to mention her at all; when, if the truth were known, she is the sole individual, perhaps, at whom his two-and-sixpenny missive is launched. A *sweet* fellow is James Power.—*Morning Chronicle.*

FASHIONS FOR THE MONTH.—Coats are very much worn, particularly at the elbows, and are trimmed with a shining substance, which gives them a very glossy appearance. A rim of white runs down the seams, and the covering of the buttons is slightly opened, so as to show the wooden material under it. Hats are now slightly indented at the top, and we have seen several in which part of the brim is sloped off without any particular regard to the quantity abstracted. Walking dresses have lately been much dotted with brown spots of a mud colour, thrown on quite irregularly, and the heels of the stockings may sometimes be seen trimmed with the same material. A sort of basket-work is now a great deal seen as a head dress, and in these cases it is strewed over with little silver fish, something like a common sprat, which gives it a light and graceful character.—*Punch.*

A physician having prescribed for a patient who complained of a want of appetite, recommended him to eat fried bacon instead of taking butter at breakfast, as the latter disagreed with his stomach. In a few days after, the medical man called on his patient to inquire what effect his prescription had; to which the patient answered, "Very little indeed; for though I have eaten not less than half a pound of fried bacon, or more, every morning since you prescribed, I have not found my appetite for dinner in the least improved."

Some men are like musical glasses—to produce the finest tones you must keep them wet.—*Coleridge.*

INDUSTRY.—There is no art or science that is too difficult for industry to attain to; it is the gift of tongues, and makes a man understood and valued in all countries and by all nations; it is the philosopher's stone, that turns all metals, and even stones, into gold, and suffers not want to break into its dwelling; it is the north-west passage, that brings the merchant's ship as soon to him as he can desire—in a word, it conquers all enemies, and makes fortune itself pay contribution.—*Clarendon.*

OBSTINACY.—An obstinate man does not hold opinions, but they hold him; for when he is once possessed with an error, it is like a devil, only cast out with great difficulty. Whatsoever he lays hold on, like a drowning man, he never loses, though it do but help to sink him the sooner.—*Butler.*

INJURY.—A little wrong done to another is a great injury done to ourselves. The severest punishment of an injury is the consciousness of having done it; and no man suffers more than he who is turned over to the pain of repentance.

PITY AND SCORN.—He that hath pity on another man's sorrow shall be free from it himself; and he that delighteth in and scorneth the misery of another, shall one time or other fall into it himself.—*Sir W. Raleigh.*

Mind is the capacity of knowing first principles, which is the consummation of knowledge.

NARRATIVE OF MADISON JEFFERSON TWENTY-TWO YEARS A SLAVE IN NEW VIRGINIA. U. S. A.

THE subject of the following narrative called at the office of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, on Tuesday the 30th ult., and stated that he was an escaped slave from the United States, and had come over from Canada with a gentleman now residing at Petersfield, from whom he brought a reference, and by whom this statement has been subsequently confirmed. He gives the following touching account of his individual sufferings in slavery, as well as many collateral facts exhibiting the atrocious character of the system in general.

Madison Jefferson was raised in New Virginia, on the R. Ohio, about seven miles from Parkersburgh, on the estate of a man named George Neal, a planter, cultivating tobacco, Indian corn, and hemp, and possessing two other farms, on which there were about 250 slaves. He was one of sixteen children, twelve of whom were still in slavery, viz., nine sisters and three brothers, one brother and two sisters having deceased some years. The account he gives of the death of his brother is simple and affecting; he was employed as a swineherd, and one day during a heavy thunderstorm, he took shelter under a tree, a branch of which, riven by the lightning, struck his head; from that day "he took sick," but no one cared for his complaints. Driven forth daily to his appointed tasks, at length he died—another victim offered up to the insatiable Moloch of avarice, whose blood crieth out even from the ground against his oppressors.

How pleasing in general are the reminiscences of the days of our youth, how wont are we, who have been brought up under the kind and watchful eye of a parent, to exclaim, with reference to that sunny period, "they were the happiest hours of my existence;" it is not so, however, with the little slave, Madison's earliest recollections are embittered by the harsh treatment he received from his mistress when a house boy, in which occupation he continued from the time he was four years old until about sixteen—at first, he was employed in taking care of the young children of the women engaged in the field or otherwise; afterwards in cleaning shoes, knives, carrying wood, and various household duties. The systematic discipline of the children is commenced before they can walk, "they are whipped for crying," says Madison, "to make them subdue." He has frequently been beaten by his mistress, because the shoes or knives were not cleaned to her satisfaction, been struck with the tongs and shovel, had his hair pulled out by the roots, his ears pinched till they bled, and been made to sit in a corner and to eat dry bread, till almost choked, with various other petty tortures—amongst others, he mentions that the children were sometimes obliged to get a basin of water and scrub each others faces with a corn cob (the cone of the Indian corn after the grain has been removed, which is very rough) till they bled under the infliction. His mother, from Madison's account, appears to have been a pious woman, she attended a baptist chapel whenever she could get permission, and taught her children to pray to Him who is a "strength to the needy in his distress." Several of the slaves on the estate were in the habit of attending places of worship, and were members of churches; they had a place appropriated for them behind the door, not being allowed to sit with the whites. *Both Madison's master and his son were members of the methodist church!* Indeed, he adds, that "all the methodists, even the preachers, are slave-holders, and think no harm of it."

When he was about sixteen years of age. still being employed about the house, he attempted to escape to Canada, and had travelled between three or four days, having reached Zeinsville in Ohio, when arriving at a creek, he was unable to proceed; some persons coming down in a boat offered to convey him over, but instead of doing so they carried him to Parkersburgh, lodged him in gaol, and obtained a reward for his capture. On this occasion, he received thirty-nine lashes and was put in chains for a week, being employed in working in the garden and chopping wood during the day, and at night was chained to a block in a room by himself. About this time, one of his sisters was sold off to the south: many tears were shed by the mother, and by the whole family, but they were obliged to conceal their grief from their oppressors, who, to use Madison's own words, "if they caught them crying would tell them that they would give them something to cry for." This fear of separation was constantly hanging over families, "we have a dread constantly on our minds," says M. J., "for we don't know how long master may keep us, nor into whose hands we may fall." The dearest ties of kindred are totally disregarded, he has frequently known men sold in one direction, and their wives in another; their social affections and sympathies forming no part in the cold and mercenary calculations of the slave-holder; indeed, these separations, by a refinement of cruelty, are frequently made for punishment.

(To be continued in our next.)

LITERATURE.

Nugæ Literariæ: Prose and Verse. By the Rev. RICHARD WINTER HAMILTON, Minister of Belgrave chapel, Leeds. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

THIS volume consists partly of essays on various subjects, and partly of a number of poems written on different occasions, and are chiefly of a grave and serious character. The essays Mr Hamilton describes as "Poor Flowers"—"Wildings plucked in Haste"—and we learn his estimate of the poems by his application to himself and to them of a line from Shakspere's Julius Cæsar:—

"Tear him for his bad verses, tear him for his bad verses!"

Now as the book is rather bulky, extending to some six hundred pages, and costly in proportion, this account of it, by one who is best able to appreciate its merits, is, to say the least, not very encouraging. Few people will spend their money for flowers without fragrance, or their time in reading execrable verses. But are the contents of the volume such as its author would have the public to understand? Are they light and worthless trifles? If so, why publish them? If not, why depreciate them? We must leave Mr. Hamilton to answer these questions. "Nugæ" though they be, and "poor" as they are, it seems they are not unworthy to be offered "in token and in memory of a friendship which has survived the course and sustained the proof of thirty years."

Whatever we may think of the affectation or the humility of all this, we give the author full credit for his devout sincerity when he says of these "Poor Flowers and Wildings,"—"Even these I should loathe and trample could I think any duty of the holy office had been neglected while I gathered them." We are familiar with his former works—his sermons, surpassed by none in our language for their theological depth and fervid eloquence—his pamphlets in reply to Dr Hutton on the Socinian controversy—his touching and energetic pastoral appeals on personal, domestic, and social devotion—and his book of family prayers, entitled "The Little Sanctuary," which we doubt not has kindled and kept alive the sacred fire of many a domestic altar. Mr Hamilton is indeed remarkable for consecrating his great powers, and the intellectual treasures they have accumulated, to the grand purposes of the christian ministry. Even the volume on our table, though it proposes no object beyond the range of mere human literature, is itself a striking proof of its author's devotedness to higher and nobler pursuits. Of its varied contents we may affirm that "they are the desultory productions of a man sedulously employed upon better things."

The essays were originally delivered in the form of lectures, in the Literary and Scientific Institute at Leeds. And high indeed must be the order of the popular mind in that town which could furnish a numerous audience to listen to such discourses, distinguished alike by their varied learning, the depth and extent of their researches, their close argumentation, and their high-toned eloquence. As regards public favour and patronage, should these productions be as short-lived as their author forebodes, it will not be because they are trifles, but because they are too profound for the multitude. They will never pass current with that class of superficial readers who derive all their knowledge and amusement from our magazines and popular literature. But out of this class many are emerging, and are swelling the ranks of those whom such men as Thomas Carlyle and Emerson have awakened to deep thought and earnest inquiry, and who can only be satisfied by the rationale and the truth of things. By such minds the "Nugæ Literariæ" of Mr Hamilton will be welcomed with delight. The essays are eleven in number, and with the exception of two perfectly miscellaneous.

The "Isiac Mysteries" form the subject of the first essay. That these are mysteries of iniquity none will doubt who read Mr Hamilton's elaborate investigation of their origin and design. Priestism, or rather priestcraft, is their essence. They began in changing "the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and to four-footed beasts, and creeping things." Their origin was superstition, their end the establishment of priestly power, which tyrannised over the popular mind till it debased it below the instincts of the brutes. Under its influence human nature was transformed and degraded till it became the wonder of angels and the scoff of demons—an anomalous and hateful thing, which the pure intelligence of the universe regarded with abhorrence and contempt. Priestism possesses one unchangeable character—the revelations of nature and Christianity are by it equally prostituted to become the panders to its insatiable avarice. It matters not whether natural or revealed religion be the instrument by which it works—it dethrones and defames God, and deifies itself for the sole purpose of filling its coffers and gratifying its love of power and of pelf. It is equally sensual and selfish, debauched and ambitious, with the sole purpose of subordinating the whole world to its gratification and its pride. This is the indelible stamp of priestism, which in every age has been the same—the arch and inveterate enemy both of God and man—an impious usurpation of the rights of Heaven, and an arrogant domination over all the interests of earth. Let us hear Mr Hamilton:—

"It is natural, then, to ask, how did the Mysteries commence? What is the foundation on which they rest? I will briefly state my opinion: I must leave others to weigh it.

"I think, then, that it was not an immediate invention of any man, or class of men; but that the institute arose, and accidentally, from the change in writing. The symbol was left on the temples and in the sacred books: but an arbitrary character was introduced in every other connexion. In a few generations the *symbolic* became the sacred character exclusively; and was understood only by sacred persons. Signs like these would soon strike the multitude with an obscure blind awe, and only the priests could interpret them. Then occurred the double temptation, *avarice* to make *gain* of them and *ambition* to turn them into means of *influence*. As the most wealthy and intellectual would be the most curious to pry into them, so it became necessary to support the claim to superior insight by the gloss of sophistry and plausibility. There was little difficulty in the preservation of secresy; for on its violation the mystagogues lost their spell, and the initiated their distinction. And then as priesthoods were wanted for the more popular rites, and governments found the influence to be great exerted by them over the populace, statesmen and kings thought favourably of the Mythic institute, because it kept the inferior religious functionaries in check. I therefore conclude, whatever of deception there was in it, it was not the effect of an original plan to deceive, but of a yielding to circumstance and a compliance with temptation. Nor is it probable that in the Greater Mysteries there was any low debauchery. Being sanctioned by the public magistrate and the virtuous philosopher, this would be an unreasonable suspicion. The symbols, however, were of the grossest kind. And in the ordinary services of Isis—the constant ministry of her various temples, we have the strongest proofs of the most profligate excesses and cruel seductions taking place."

This essay concentrates all that can be said on the subject of the "Isiac Mysteries," and is equally erudite and popular.

The second discourse is "On the Olympic Games," and has tasked the author's industry and learning to their full extent. It is evident that Mr Hamilton deemed this no trifle. After a very ingenious introduction, he remarks—"The subject of this essay is very interesting, not unuseful, illustrative of the most wonderful people which ever existed, deciphering many peculiarities of their national temperament, opening a passage to the heart of their idolatry, besides constituting a splendid observance which survived kings and kingdoms, and filled a notation of more than a thousand years. It is pertinent to historical letters and classic studies; it can be made to pourtray and impress the course of each duty, and the encounter of each ill." After tracing their origin and describing these games in all their variety, and following their progress down the stream of history, Mr Hamilton, with a pardonable degree of classical enthusiasm, describes their design and object—he tells us "they were designed to perpetuate the most perfect beauty of the human form—a high morality, considering its standard, was promoted by these games; they were intended to assist the liberty and general equality of the people;—they were of the greatest value in restraining and directing ambition." Then follows a realization of the scenes exhibited in these games, a description so vivid that in reading it you feel as if transported to the spot.

The conclusion is worthy of the christian scholar and philanthropist. We can only quote part of it.

"Where is Olympia now? There still blows the olive—Cronion still lifts its heap: but the very olive is stunted, and instead of the mountain there is a mound. The name is forgotten, and Antilalla only heard. The Carbon creeps where once Alpheus flowed. All is drearily still where nations shouted! All is well nigh depopulated where kingdoms threw forth their swarms! Where is the revel cheerfulness, the high-souled valour, now? It was life in its most compressed energy and intensity—it is death in its deepest, coldest gloom. The real barbarian has been there, rifling earth's fairest portion, destroying man's noblest race. We have little to regret that the Olympics survive but as a tale of wonder and romance. Better institutions have risen, though not there: nobler feelings are enkindled. Well may we rejoice that such things are now regarded as the sports of that childhood which has grown in wisdom and stature up to the present age. Let us hope that a country so lovely may not be abandoned to perpetual desolations: let us more than hope that a people who erst filled such an orb of fame may complete more glorious destinies. New civilization, and sounder philosophy, and purer religion, may elevate them not only to the standard of the line—

'Such as the Doric mothers bore;'

may foster not only our belief—

'That there perchance some seed is sown,
The Heracleidan blood might own:'

as brave, as free, as refined as the Græcian heraldry,—but must rank them transcendently more wise, and virtuous, and happy!"

"The History and Prospects of the Human Species considered in relation to Intellectual and Social Improvement." This is the subject of the third essay, and seems to have been suggested by the following noble passage in "Eustace's Classical Tour."

"One consolation, however, offers itself amid this general wreck of man, of his works and of his inventions; it is, that new political associations arise from the dissolution of kingdoms and empires, and call forth with increased vigour and interest the energies and virtues of the human heart; that new combinations of sound spring from the decay of fading languages, affording fresh expressions to the understanding, and opening other fields to the imagination; and that thus all the shifting scenery and the ceaseless vicissitudes of the external world tend only to develop the powers of the mind, and finally to promote the gradual perfection of the intellectual system."

There is something exceedingly cheering and encouraging to the heart of benevolence pervading this entire lecture; we feel quite in unison with the author's sentiments in the following short passage, which, if our space would allow, we would gladly extend.

"The present form and weight of public opinion constitute a chief ground of auspicious hope concerning the species. It is an inheritance of noble thoughts and well-proved principles, which has become our own. It has gathered up the experience of truth and good from all ages, and entailed it upon this. Nothing can henceforth fade away. Nothing can henceforth be inert. The elements are not only indissoluble, but restless. They are in constant flux and strife. And though we might seek for them a more settled equilibrium and repose, yet, while so many important propositions are waiting for confirmation or disproof, while so many transcendent questions are claiming to be worked out to their just solution, while even the foundations of so many hopes require to be laid, we must not murmur, though it is our lot to live amidst the stir and conflict of such an agitation. The wave has rolled long and like an ocean-swell; our bark shivers upon its crest. The turmoil of the fight precludes our knowing the key of the position and the plan of the battle; we only feel the shock. But the billow throbs with its proper impulse. The combat sweeps in its proper course."

In the fourth essay, "On the Grounds and Sources of History," Mr Hamilton avows that his immediate purpose is "to vindicate that credence which we commonly repose in historical informations, and to lay bare the futility, or the profligacy, of that reserve which would suspend such credence, or of that scorn which would denounce it."

The two discourses on Shakspere—the one "On his Tragic Genius," and the other entitled "The Classical Comedy compared with that of Shakspere," are in our view by far the most valuable por-

tions of the volume. We are not among the number of those who with the "preaching cant and rigid feature," denounce not only the acted but the written drama. A theatre is an immoral institute, has ever been so, and in our opinion is unsusceptible of any radical improvement. But, while with Mr Hamilton we are "conscientiously adverse to theatrical amusements, we see no reason why a poem should become dangerous to morality, because cast into scene and dialogue, the true dramatic shape." We suppose from the increased enlightenment of the age that the family of the "Frybabes," who have ever been intolerant to works of fiction, simply on the ground of their imaginative character, without any regard to their moral tendency, are fast diminishing in the congregations and pulpits where they were once paramount and oracular. The satire conveyed in the following stanza we hope is now applicable only in very few instances.

"This sage advice I give to pious readers,
Beware of poetry, beware of prose;
From science, letters, be devout seceders,
For books are now as every body knows,
Of vice and mischief most prolific breeders.
And yet before my colloquy I close,
I must exempt from this broad interdiction,
'The Pilgrim's Progress' and perhaps 'No Fiction.'"

Those who proscribe the literature which has its origin in the imagination, ought in consistency and fairness to proscribe the imagination itself, and to deprive man of one of the noblest faculties of his mind, which is essential to the perfection of his moral nature, and which was designed by his infinitely wise and benevolent Creator to form the beauty of his character, and to be one principal element of his enjoyment. It is true that this faculty is peculiarly susceptible of abuse; and this proves its value. What would be the visions of faith and hope, were they not sustained and realised by the power of the imagination? A healthy imagination gives to piety its fragrance, and to virtue its bloom. A man remarkably deficient in imagination must be to the same extent deficient in that devout enthusiasm which is necessary to constitute him a seraphic Christian, and a zealous benefactor of his species. There may be many good men destitute of imagination; but they are not qualified to enjoy the highest pleasures of devotion, nor to conquer the rugged difficulties which lie in the path of eminent usefulness. There may, however, be some who, though they do not object to works of the imagination as such, may seriously object to Shakspere on the assumption of the demoralising tendency of his dramas. They will do well to ponder the remarks of Mr Hamilton.

"Shakspere has obtained such a mastery of the human mind, such a throne in the world of letters, that it is impossible to banish him from our libraries: he is so singularly impressive, is so readily remembered, that it is equally impossible to chase him from our memory. Read and quoted he will ever be. His descriptions, like rich hangings and tapestries, fill our minds. We think through him—by him we speak. He belongs to our national treasures—he controls our manners, and modulates our expressions, even still. For more than two centuries has his name been glorifying. Ever-strengthening is his spell. The guardian of youth and the minister of religion have here no easy path to walk, nor unhesitating counsel to enunciate. It cannot be denied that, in perusing him, there *is* danger of moral contamination. It is vain to say that his worst evil is his fidelity, that he calls the spade the spade. There is sometimes a lavish pruriency. His power is occasionally for evil as well as good. Explore his deep lore of human nature, study the principles and laws which he so clearly expounds, mark how even he can only make vice look frightful and leprously deformed—and, as our taste passes by his verbal conceit and idle pun, let our better and purer sensibilities reject and spurn the oblique, and the too often undisguised, grossness which blots his page—grossness so uncongenial with the poet, so injurious to the dramatist, so unworthy of the man!"

We cannot close our notice of these two essays without expressing our unfeigned admiration of the varied learning, critical acumen, noble sentiments, and splendid eloquence with which they are adorned. We can only simply announce the subjects of the remaining essays: which are, "On the Yorkshire Dialect;" "On Correlates and Synonyms;" "On the Passions of the Human Mind;" "On Personal Identity;" and "On Craniology."

Of the verses, or the poems, it may be expected we should say something, if it be only to protect the author from the catastrophe with which the Roman citizen threatened Cinna the poet—"Tear him for his bad verses!" The verses are not positively bad. To our ears, however, they have little harmony; and they want inspiration. As a favourable specimen we give—

"SUNSET.

The Sun now sinks beneath the western wave—
His radiance melts away from yonder sky—
And now has disappeared the latest dye
Which to its canopy of clouds he gave.
But though the night there dark and darker grows,
And shadows gloom like a sepulchral pile—
With streams of light the opposing heavens smile,
And lambent splendour all the east o'erflows.
Yet 't was that *setting* sun which bade the sphere
Of silvery lustre gleam upon the earth;
And *hidden* though that sun, fair orbs appear
In glories borrowed from his fulgent birth.
So dies the Christian! From his parting bier
Far distant worlds reflect his radiant worth!"

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

On Tuesday, December 21, a neat and commodious chapel in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Association at Launceston (designed by Mr J. Rundle, architect of Tavistock, and erected by Messrs Gill and Ede, builders of Launceston, in the Norman Gothic style), was opened for divine worship, by the Rev. G. Smith, independent minister of Plymouth, who delivered two very interesting and suitable discourses on the occasion, that in the morning from Psalm lxxxvii. 2, and the one in the evening from 2 Cor. iv. 5. The afternoon service was conducted by W. Hicks, Esq., of Bodmin, who preached an animated discourse from Tit. ii. 14. Although the weather was extremely unfavourable to the attendance of friends at a distance, yet the congregations were numerous and respectable; and the contributions towards the erection of this truly unique building, was liberal and pleasingly indicative of the real advancement of the cause of religious freedom in the north of Cornwall. A public tea was provided in the Subscription Rooms for the members and friends of the association attending the services. These services, together with the christian harmony which prevailed on this very interesting occasion, will long be remembered by the many friends to the voluntary system, who were so fortunate as to be present. The association in the short course of five years since its secession from the conference now numbers, in Cornwall alone, 74 chapels and 42 other preaching places, with 12 itinerant and 140 non-itinerant preachers.

A letter has been received from Messrs. P. and A. Mönster, the baptist pastors, on whose behalf Messrs. Dowson and Giles visited Copenhagen, which brings the pleasing intelligence that they and the other baptists imprisoned (Messrs. Ryding and Pudsched) had been released from their captivity. The communication also states, that they have not in the least compromised their principles, or given any promise to refrain from preaching.

The Rev. W. Young, who has been the minister of the baptist church in Newport, Isle of Wight, for the last two years, preached his farewell sermon last sabbath evening, and on Tuesday left the Island, having accepted the unanimous call of the church and congregation of baptists, at Thrapston, Northamptonshire.

On Christmas day, December 25, 1841, the members of the church and congregation assembling in the independent chapel, Wellington, Salop, held a social tea party when they presented their minister, the Rev. S. Evans, with a purse containing 17*l.* as a testimony of their christian affection. The purse was presented by W. Simms, Esq., a gentleman who a little time ago contributed the munificent sum of 150*l.* towards liquidating the debt on the above chapel, which is now entirely removed. The rev. gentleman in acknowledging the kindness of his attached people, alluded to the efficiency of the voluntary principle in forcible terms.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 4, at Surrey chapel, by the Rev. Alfred North, of Ripley, Hants., Mr John Lee, of Bermondsey, son of the Rev. William Lee, late missionary to the East Indies, to Anne Sarah Newth, eldest daughter of the Rev. Elisha Newth, of Charlotte-street, Blackfriars.

Dec. 30, at St. Thomas' chapel, Newport, Isle of Wight, Mr Charles Domine, of Lymington Academy, to Eliza, third daughter of the late Mr Thomas Pittis, of Newport, wine and spirit merchant.

Dec. 25, at the same place, Mr Richard Wavell, mercer, to Ann, daughter of Mr Winscom, linen draper, Winchester.

Dec. 25, at the baptist chapel, Parker's row, Gloucester, by the Rev. G. W. Rodway, Mr. Nathaniel Woodcock, master of the British school, to Miss Ann Newman, daughter of the late Mr. Charles Greenwood Thomson, woolstapler, of that city. This being the first marriage which has taken place in this chapel, the pastor presented a bible to the parties married.

Dec. 23, at Dr Burder's chapel, Hackney, by the Rev. C. Dukes, A.M., Mr Joshua Dukes, of Kingsland grammar school, to Miss Ashley, eldest daughter of H. Ashley, Esq., of Hackney.

DEATHS.

Dec. 30, at the house of his brother-in-law, in Champion grove, Camberwell, aged 21, Ebenezer Birrell, late student at Stepney college.

Dec. 28, of apoplexy, at Great Horton, Bradford, Yorkshire, the Rev. John Wheelhouse, Wesleyan minister, in the 64th year of his age.

Dec. 29, the Right Honourable the Earl of Falmouth, at Tregothan, near Truro, aged 55.

Dec. 22, in his 61st year, the Rev. Thomas Roberts, for 34 years the beloved pastor of the baptist church meeting in King street, Bristol.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, December 31.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 Wm IV., cap. 85:—

Independent meeting, Castle Hedingham, Essex. O. Hustler, superintendent registrar.

Kingstanley baptist chapel, Kingstanley, Gloucestershire. A. J. Driver, superintendent registrar.

INSOLVENTS.

Robberds, Jonas Henry, Norwich, and Day, Starling, Southtown, Suffolk, and both of Taverham, Norfolk, paper makers, Dec. 30.

BANKRUPTS.

Biddle, William, Holborn hill, fishmonger, to surrender Jan. 7, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Hillier and Co., 6, Raymond buildings, Gray's inn.

Carpenter, George, Chelmsford, Essex, chymist and druggist, Jan. 10, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherley, 5, Great Marlborough street.

Fisher, John and Elizabeth, formerly of Wigan, but now of Meghthill, Lancashire, wine and spirit merchants, Jan. 11, Feb. 11: solicitors, Mr. Carter, Liverpool, and Messrs Sharpe and Co., Bedford row, London.

Goodwin, William, Dronfield, Derbyshire, maltster, Jan. 17, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Bicknell and Co., 57, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Mr W. Drabble, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Hilton, Charles, Manchester, cotton manufacturer, Jan. 18, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Abbott and Arney, 10, Charlotte street, Bedford square, London, and Messrs E. and R. W. Bennett, Manchester.

Humfrey, Thomas, jun., Great Stanmore, Middlesex, bricklayer, Jan. 11, Feb. 11: solicitor, Mr Williams, 31, Alfred place, Bedford square, London.

Lock, James, Northampton, tea dealer, Jan. 8, Feb. 11: solicitor, Mr Cattlin, 39, Ely place, London.

Newstead, John, and Hextall, Joseph, Regent street, lacemen, Jan. 7, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, 2, Friday street, Cheapside.

Ponten, William Elton, late of 42, Ludgate hill, chymist, Jan. 13, Feb. 11: solicitor, Mr C. Parsons, Temple chambers, Fleet street.

Shingler, Samuel, and James, Sylvanus Thomas, Liverpool, linen drapers, Jan. 14, Feb. 11: solicitors, Mr Rooker, Liverpool, and Messrs Holme and Co., 10, New inn, London.

Stevens, John, and Drummond, Robert Horatio William, Rhodeswell wharf, Mile end, road contractors, Jan. 14, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs M'Leod and Stenning, 16½, Billiter street, Fenchurch street.

Swift, William, and Crampton, Robert, Manchester, drapers, Jan. 19, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs Willis and Co., 6, Tokenhouse yard, London, and Messrs Barrett and Co., Manchester.

Thompson, John, Blackburn, Lancashire, power-loom cloth manufacturer, Jan. 26, Feb. 11: solicitors, Mr Fiddy, Temple, London, and Mr Ellingthorpe, Blackburn.

Weigall, Charles Harvey, Conduit street, Regent street, tailor, Jan. 10, Feb. 11 solicitor, Mr Pike, 26, Old Burlington street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Bannatyne, Ninian, Glasgow, provision merchant, Jan. 3, 24.

Forsyth, Walter, Coat-bridge, Lanarkshire, grocer and spirit dealer, Jan. 6, 26.

Johnston, James, Glasgow, manufacturer, Jan. 7, 31.

Main, John, Glasgow, grain dealer and provision merchant, Jan. 6, 27.

Mayne, William, Glasgow, builder and writer, Jan. 6, Feb. 1.

Nicol, Andrew, Kirkaldy, cabinet maker, Jan. 5, 26.

Robertson, John, late of Saint Ninians, but now of Back of Muir, cattle dealer, Jan. 5, 26.

Waterton, Robert, Leith, stationer, Jan. 8, 29.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 21, Williamson, Nicholas lane, Lombard street, merchant—Jan. 21, Burgon, Walbrook buildings, merchant—Jan. 21, Blood, North Audley street, Grosvenor square, surgeon—Jan. 22, Mill, Crosby hall chambers, Bishopsgate street within, merchant—Jan. 22, Pulbrook, 250, late of 171, Blackfriars road, boot and shoe maker—Jan. 22, Howell, Oxford street, linen draper—Jan. 22, W. and J. Walker, St. John's square, Clerkenwell, and Manchester, manufacturers of apparatus for heating buildings—Jan. 20, Ratcliffe, 64, Blackman street, Southwark, stationer—Jan. 22, Kew, Norwich, jeweller—Jan. 21, T. and W. H. Carr, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturers—Feb. 7, Thelwell, Manchester, silversmith—Jan. 21, Midlane, Brading, Hampshire, ironmonger—Jan. 24, W. and J. Losh, Manchester and Carlisle, calico printers—Jan. 27, Bothamley, Sheffield, plumber.

CERTIFICATES.—JAN. 21.

Butler, Walsall, Staffordshire, saddlers' ironmonger—Taylor, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, hat manufacturer—Whitmore and Co., Lombard street, City, bankers—Mather and Co., Manchester and Salford, Lancashire, iron founders—Robinson, now or late of 6, Henrietta street, Covent garden, Middlesex, banker—Neumegen, Highgate, Middlesex, bookseller—Borrowdale, Branthwate, Cumberland, paper manufacturer.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Wilson and Co., Queenhithe, stationers (so far as regards Kidd)—Bedwell and Arrigoul, Victoria road, Pimlico, tobacconists—T. and J. Chubb, 1, Queen street, Cheapside, tailors—W. and J. Billiter, New Leather market, leather factors—Hodgson and Abbott, Bow, Middlesex, brewers—J. P. and J. W. Sampson, Great Chesterford, Essex, millers—Sangster and Watt, Queen street, Cheapside, cotton and linen factors—Sherwood and Clements, 99, Wood street, Cheapside, booksellers—Wildy and Davis, Lincoln's inn, law booksellers—Bovill and Bailey, corn and seed factors—J. and J. Wilde, 3, Commercial sale rooms, Mincing lane, sugar brokers—Ives and Co., 30, Little Queen street, Holborn, and Maiden lane, Battle-bridge, varnish and colour manufacturers—Briggs and Co., London and Liverpool, merchants (so far as regards W. E. Acraman)—J., T., and J. Liversidge, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, hat manufacturers—Kensingtons and Co., London, merchants (so far as regards E. Kensington)—Vizard and Co., Dursley, Gloucestershire, attorneys at law (so far as regards Buchanan)—Saunders and Chalmers, 56, Leadenhall street, City, woollen drapers—Steinthal and Co., Bradford, Yorkshire, merchants (so far as regards Schlesinger)—Mayhew and Harrington, Gravesend, Kent, hackneymen—Barnes and Co., Farringdon, Berkshire, bankers—G. and J. W. Gull, 68, Old Broad street, City, Russia brokers—Willcox and Anderson, 51, St. Mary Axe, City, ship owners and ship brokers—Tuckett and Corss, 16, Shoreditch, boot and shoe makers—Walker and Co., Nottingham, architects (so far as regards S. Walker)—Lavers and Hill, Lewisham, Kent, coal merchants—Andrew and Price, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, hatters, hosiers, and haberdashers—Holmes and Atkinson, Booth Town, Yorkshire, silk spinners—Amyot and Young, East India chambers, Leadenhall street, City, ship and commercial agents—Kay and Kitts, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, cotton spinners—Atkins and Son, Cheltenham, wine merchants—Jones and Rowlands, Liverpool, joiners and builders—Thompson and Shepard, Wapping, Middlesex, mast and block makers—Battistessa and Co., 106, Hatton garden, London, and Edinburgh, looking glass manufacturers—T. and J. H. Bryant, Bristol, bakers—Cornthwaite and Alston, Lancaster, saddlers—Booker and Seignette, Liverpool, merchants—V., A., and J. Potter, Manchester, general commission agents (so far as regards J. Potter)—Niblett and Townsend, Bristol, stage coach proprietors.

Tuesday, January 4.

INSOLVENTS

APSEY, WILLIAM HENRY, Globe wharf, Rotherhithe, ship builder.
BABER, HENRY ADOLPHUS, Lindfield, Sussex, maltster, Dec. 31.
BARNARD, GEORGE, Portsea, Southampton, coal merchant, Jan. 3.
BUCKETT, JAMES, Great Bourton, Oxfordshire, sheep dealer, Jan. 1.
WARD, BENJAMIN, late of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bnt now of 50, Charlotte terrace, New cut, Lambeth, boot and shoe manufacturer, Jan. 4.

BANKRUPTS.

BISHOPP, JAMES, Westburton, Sussex, market gardener, Jan. 17, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs Blackburn and Senior, New inn, London, and Messrs Ellis and Upton, Petworth.

CLARK, GEORGE DELIANSON, 198, Strand, and Fieldgate street, Whitechapel, newspaper vendor, Jan. 12, Feb, 15: solicitor, Mr Waugh, Great James street, Bedford row.

COLLINSON, ROBERT, and BROWN, WILLIAM, now or late of 211, Oxford street, upholsterers, Jan. 14, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs Allen and Co., Carlisle street, Soho square.

FORD, THOMAS HENRY, Rochford, Essex, victualler, Jan. 12, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs Wood and Wickham, Corbet court, Gracechurch street.

GIBB, WILLIAM, Alnwick, Northumberland, currier, Jan. 10, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs Spours and Carr, Alnwick, and Messrs Dunn and Dobie, Raymond buildings, Gray's inn, London.

GILLARD, GEORGE, Plymouth, tea dealer, Jan. 17, Feb. 15: solicitor, Mr James Patten, 76, Hatton garden, London.

LUSCOMBE, JOHN, Plymouth, and of Stonehouse, Devonshire, malster, Jan. 17, Feb, 15: solicitors, Messrs Bartrum and Son, 112, Bishopsgate street Within, London, and Mr Nicholas Were, Plymouth.

SCHENCK, JOHANN JACOB, 10, Addle street, City, merchant, Jan. 18, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs Austen and Hobson, 4, Raymond buildings, Gray's inn.

SWIFT, WILLIAM, Manchester, mercer, Jan. 19, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messrs. R. M. and C. Baxter, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

WILLIAMS, WILLIAM, Cowarne, Herefordshire, corn dealer, Jan. 15, Feb. 15: solicitors, Messss Clark and Metcalfe, 20, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Mr William Reece, Leabury, Herefordshire.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

CHRYSTIE, DAVID, Glasgow, builder, Jan. 10, 31.
KEITH, ALEXANDER, Paisley, manufacturer, Jan. 12, 31.
MILNE, ALEXANDER, Aberdeen, merchant, Jan. 11, 31.
M'GIBBON, NEIL, Inverary, writer, Jan. 13, 31.
M'MILLAN, JAMES, Newbigging, Musselburgh, grocer, Jan. 8, Feb. 4.
M'PHAIL, ARCHIBALD, Lawrieston, Glasgow, provision merchant, Jan. 10, 31.
WALLACE, JOHN and WALLACE, WILLIAM, Glasgow, and MUNROE, GEORGE AUGUSTUS, late of St. John's. New Brunswick, but now of Glasgow, merchants, Jan. 10, 31.
WILSON, JOHN, Dundee, butcher, Jan. 10, 31.

DIVIDENDS.

Jan. 27, Woodin, New cut, Lambeth, victualler—Jan. 20, Stallebrass and Middleton, 26, City road, Finsbury square, and 15, Tabernacle walk, St. Luke's, mahogany and timber merchants—Jan. 27, Harris, 124, Lower Thames street, City, merchant—Jan. 25, Jemmett and Scholes, Long acre, coach makers—Jan. 25, Troughton, 1, St. Michael's alley, Cornhill, City, merchant—Jan. 25, Bentall, 18, Cecil street, Strand, coal merchant—Jan. 25, Scott, Brick hill lane, Upper Thames street, City, merchant—Jan. 25, Jewesson, Fenchurch street, City, merchant—Jan. 29, Gye and Hughes, late of Fleet street, tea dealers—Jan. 29, Read and Moojen, Crutched friars, City, ship agents—Jan. 29, Wilkin, Firth street, Soho square, tailor—Jan. 28, Greaves, Fish street hill City, leather and hide seller—Jan. 26, H. Fletcher sen., and H. Fletcher, jun., Eastington, Gloucestershire, clothiers—Jan. 29, Wilson and Briddon, Salford, Lancashire, and Stockport, Cheshire, machine makers—Jan. 28, Cass, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, grocer—Jan. 27, Robinson, late of Stone, Staffordshire, wine merchant—Jan. 25, Franklin, Walsall, Staffordshire, currier.

CERTIFICATES—JAN. 25.

Colls and Thompson, late of 72, Lombard street, City, bill brokers—James, Beaufort iron works, Breconshire, general shopkeeper—Bugg, 4, Exmouth street, and Wood street, Clerkenwell, carpenter—Jones, Yardley, Worcestershire, merchant—Salford, Stockport, Cheshire, timber merchant—Magnus, Ramsgate, Kent, linen draper—Brooks, Baptist mills, Bristol, British sugar manufacturer.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

T. and W. Holmes, Kingston-upon-Hull, tanners—Longman and Emmens, 36, Boston street, Dorset square, corn chandlers—Highfield and Birch, Liverpool—Chappelow sen., and Chappelow, jun., 138, Long acre, bridle cutters—Smith and Morphett, Sise lane, London, wholesale tea dealers—Nicholson and Hoole, Sheffield, Stove grate manufacturers—Cooper and Golden, New Windsor, Berkshire, corn merchants—Phillips and Owen, Atherstone, Warwickshire—Wildes and Co., Coleman street, London, Liverpool, and New York, merchants and Commission agents—Hall and Co., 32, Fenchurch street, London, West India merchants—Piper and Phillipson, Birmingham, jewellers—Holloway and Wright, 2½, Stockwell common, Lambeth—W. and J. Cousins, 45, Duke street, Westminster, carpenters—Brown and Nye, Great St. Helen's, London, wine merchants—Bradley and Co., Nottingham, thread lace manufacturers—Woods and Antrobus, Manchester, bakers—Georges and Co., Bristol, brewers (so far as regards S. Watton)—Fishers and Robinson, Nottingham, lace merchants (so far as regards T. Fisher)—Perrin and Jeyes, Northampton, chemists—Paterson and Ware, 26 and 27, Addle street, London, commission agents—T. and C. Handisyde, 55, Lamb's Conduit street, Middlesex, upholsterers—Gifford and Savage, 1, Gloucester place, New road, surgeon apothecaries—Morris and Clegg, Bradford, Yorkshire, attorneys—G. and E. Davis, Wouldham, Burham, Milton next Gravesend, Kent, and Grosvenor basin, Pimlico, lime burners—Irlam and Thompson, Liverpool, brokers—Clowes and Royle, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, common brewers—I. and A. Hodgson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, linen manufacturers—Hall and Roberts, Tavistock, Devonshire, slate merchants—Smith and Heppell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ship brokers—Jennings and Marshall, Bradford and Horton, Yorkshire, woolstaplers—Le Coq and Saidler, 66, Mark lane, London, merchants—Bowlby and Co., South Shields and Bishop Wearmouth, solicitors—T. and A. Blain, Liverpool, cabinet makers—J. and T. Lowe, Chester, goldsmiths—Brodie and Hamilton, Liverpool—Hall and Co., Gloucester, and King William street, London, pin manufacturers (so far as regards English)—Watkins and Co., Fenchurch street, tea brokers—Millican and Crawford, Leicester, tailors—Bowers and Wood, Burslem, Staffordshire, earthenware manufacturers—Holland and Frercks, 13, Lower Smith street, Northampton square, Clerkenwell, silversmiths—Elliston and Fisher, Cambridge, linen drapers—Wilson and Co., 18, Old Bond street, tailors—Clarke and King, Bath, attorneys—Crawford and Dickin, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, surgeons—Robbins and May, Old Change, lacemen—J. and J. Lee, Bradford, Yorkshire, wine and spirit merchants—Churchill and Mallory, Cheltenham, ironmongers—Bawtree and Co., Colchester and Witham, Essex, and Hadleigh, Suffolk, bankers (so far as regards Turner)—Taylor and Co., Liverpool, booksellers (so far as regards Taylor, sen.)—J. and R. Wortley, Horsford, Norfolk, farmers—Wood and Ellis, 2, Corbet court, Gracechurch street, attorneys—Bailey, Newland, Oxfordshire, and Button, Botley, Berkshire, farmers—Anthony and Bickham, Manchester, calico printers—Perry and Richardson, jun., Liverpool, printers—Lloyd and Edwards, Holywell, Flintshire, painters—Dixon and Spooner, Walsall, Staffordshire, saddlers' ironmongers—Pearson and Co., 18, Calthorpe place, Gray's inn road, furnishing ironmongers—Lewis and Fase, 22, Oxford street, jewellers—Leigh and Sanders, Liverpool, solicitors—Murdoch and Co., the island of Madeira, merchants—Hamlyn and Balman, Liverpool—Watson and Co., Leeds, dyers—Lizardi and Co., London, Liverpool, and New Orleans, merchants (so far as regards Quintana)—Fildes and Co., Saint Helens, Lancashire, grocers and linen and woollen drapers—J. and J. Kempson, Birmingham, land agents—Perry and Co,, Reading, Berkshire, iron founders (so far as regards Perry)—Snow and Co., 217, Strand, and 41, Norfolk street, Strand, bankers and navy agents (so far as regards Snow)—Dakin and Ewer, Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk, soda water manufacturers—Howell and Huckvale, Mincing lane, City, colonial brokers—Field and Co., Bristol, printers—Eckhard and Co., Bradford, Yorkshire, and Manchester, general commission agents and merchants (so far as regards Tremel).

BRITISH FUNDS.

The improvement in the funds during the past week has been all but continuous. Capitalists and politicians have much confidence that our dispute with America will be adjusted through the mediation of Lord Ashburton, who has accepted the office of her Majesty's commissioner to the government of America, in order to settle the boundary, the right of search, and the M'Leod apology questions.

	Wed.	*Thurs.*	*Fri.*	*Sat.*	*Mon.*	*Tues.*
3 per cent. Consols	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto for Account	89⅛	89⅛	—	89⅜	89⅛	89⅛
3 per cents. Reduced	89⅜	89⅜	89⅜	89⅜	89⅜	89⅜
3½ per cents. Reduced	99⅛	99⅛	99¼	99⅜	99⅛	99⅛
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	12⅛	12⅛	12⅛	12⅜	12⅛	12⅛
Bank Stock	165½	165½	166	166¼	166¼	166¼
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	12 pm.	12 pm.	16 pm.	17 pm.	12 pm.	12 pm
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	—	1 pm.	3 pm.	5 pm.	4 pm.	4 pm.

SHARES.

Railways—			
Birmingham and Derby	—	London and Brighton	40
Birmingham and Gloucester	62	London and Croydon Trunk	12¾
Blackwall	11½	London and Greenwich	7¼
Bristol and Exeter	29	Ditto New	18
Cheltenham and Gt. Western	—	Manchester and Birmingham	28
Eastern Counties	9	Manchester and Leeds	70
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	87
Great North of England	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	27
Great Western	89½	North Midland	73
Ditto New	62	Ditto New	36
Ditto Fifths	10	South Eastern and Dover	23
London and Birmingham	170	South Western	60
Ditto Quarter Shares	25¼	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Jan. 3.

The supplies of English wheat continue moderate, and the condition being bad prevented millers from taking it freely; there was only a limited demand for foreign wheat, although a few cargoes have been purchased for Ireland. The wheat trade on the whole is dull.

A dull sale for flour at late prices.

The arrivals of barley continue good, and the trade is firm at late prices for the best qualities, and rather cheaper for the inferior descriptions.

Beans are 1s. to 2s. per qr cheaper. White and grey peas each 1s. per qr lower.

The arrivals of oats are very large, and the trade continues extremely depressed. Many of the Irish oats are nearly unsaleable, and are being taken to granary; and the market is 1s. per qr lower on all descriptions since this day se'nnight.

	s.	s.		s.	s.		s.	s.
Wheat, Red New	54	to 66	Malt, Ordinary	50	to 53	Beans, Old	38	to 41
Fine	64	.. 70	Pale	58	.. 64	Harrow	36	.. 44
White	55	.. 67	Peas, Hog	33	.. 35	Oats, Feed	22	.. 24
Fine	64	.. 71	Maple	35	.. 37	Fine	25	.. 28
Rye	34	.. 38	Boilers	38	.. 40	Poland	23	.. 27
Barley	26	.. 30	Beans, Ticks	32	.. 37	Potato	23	.. 27
Malting	33	to 36						

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 3.			AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF SIX WEEKS.			DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN FOR THE PRESENT WEEK.		
Wheat	62*s.*	10*d.*	Wheat	63*s.*	9*d.*	Wheat	23*s.*	8*d.*
Barley	30	2	Barley	31	6	Barley	15	4
Oats	21	1	Oats	22	0	Oats	13	9
Rye	44	8	Rye	43	0	Rye	5	0
Beans	37	0	Beans	39	1	Beans	11	0
Peas	36	6	Peas	39	3	Peas	11	0

SEEDS.

Cloverseed continues neglected at present, and quotations cannot as yet be given correctly. There was a fair show of canaryseed, which meeting a slow demand, caused prices to recede a trifle. In other seeds there was scarcely anything passing.

Linseed, English, sowing	54s. to 59s. per qr.	Coriander	10s. to 16s. pr cwt.
Baltic, ditto	— .. —	Old	16 .. 18
Ditto, crushing	48 .. 54	Canary, new	90 .. 95
Mediter. and Odessa	50 .. 54	Old	— .. —
Hempseed, small	40 .. 45	Extra	100 .. 105
Large	48 .. 50	Carraway, old	50 .. 52
Clover, English, red	70 .. 90 per cwt.	New	48 .. 52
Ditto, white	— .. —	Mustard, brown, new	10 .. 14 pr bush.
Flemish, red	70 .. 90	White	9 .. 13
Ditto, white	— .. —	Trefoil	16 .. 28
New Hamburgh, red	65 .. 85	Rye grass, English	30 .. 42
Ditto, white	— .. —	Scotch	18 .. 40
Old Hamburgh, red	60 .. 80	Tares, winter	— .. — per qr.
Ditto, white	— .. —	New	6 .. 7 6d. pr bl.
French, red	75 .. 95	Large, foreign	— .. —
Ditto, white	— .. —	Rapeseed, English, new	36*l.* .. 40*l.* pr. last

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Jan. 3.

The arrivals last week from Ireland were 17,766 firkins butter, and 5935 bales bacon; and from foreign ports, 6006 casks butter. We have nothing to notice in the butter market. The transactions last week—as is in general the case at this period of the season—were so few that quotations must be considered nominal. The same remark may be made respecting bacon. The quotations from Ireland for pigs come very high; but the trade here are indisposed to enter into contracts at the prices demanded. Lard, and other articles under this head, meet a dull sale.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Jan. 3.

In hops, the growth of 1840, there has been some business doing, purchases being made by parties in immediate want of supplies. Prices are maintained generally with firmness. The holidays are considered now to have terminated, and the market is open again.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 27.

There was a very moderate arrival of beasts this morning, but the general quality was unusually prime for the time of the year; indeed, nearly the whole of it was above the middle quality. There was a very firm inquiry, and an advance in the currencies noted on Monday last, of from 2d, to 4d. per 8lbs., was readily obtained, the primest Scots going off at full 4s. 10d. per 8lbs., and the market was cleared at an early hour. There was a fair average supply of sheep on sale, the inquiry for which was firm, but without any improvement in their currencies. In calves little was doing, yet there was a slight enhancement on Friday's rates. The pork trade was steady at last week's figures.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	3s. 8d. to 4s. 10d.	Veal	4s. 4d. to 5s. 2d.
Mutton	3 6 .. 5 0	Pork	4 6 .. 5 2

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	489	2,220	139	341
Monday	2,543	21,970	62	696

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Jan. 3.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef	3s. 0d. to 3s. 2d.	Inferior Mutton	3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.
Middling ditto	3 2 .. 3 4	Middling ditto	3 8 .. 4 0
Prime large ditto	3 4 .. 3 6	Prime ditto	4 2 .. 4 6
Prime small ditto	3 6 .. 3 8	Veal	4 4 .. 5 0
Large Pork	4 0 .. 4 4	Small Pork	4 6 .. 5 0

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Jan. 3.

During the past week the annexed arrivals of potatoes have been received in the port of London: viz., from Yorkshire, 715 tons; Scotland, 860; Devons, 220; Jersey and Guernsey, 490; Kent, Essex, and Suffolk, 270; Irish 70: total, 2625 tons. Best samples are now much in request.

York Reds	per ton 60s. to 70s.	Wisbeach	per ton 45s. to 50s.
Scotch	50 .. 65	Jersey and Guernsey Blues	60 .. —
Irish	— .. 50	Jersey Whites	40 .. —
Devons	65 .. 70	Kent, Essex, and Suffolk Whites	50 .. 60

WOOL, Jan. 3.

The amount of busines transacted has been very small during the week, and prices remain unaltered.

Down teggs	1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1d.	Half-bred wethers	0s. 11d. to 1s. 0d.
Half-bred teggs	1 0½ .. 1 1	Leicester hogs	0 11½ .. 1 0
Down ewes and weth.	0 11 .. 0 11½	Down wethers	0 9½ .. 0 10½

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Jan. 1.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow Hay	80s. to 84s.	New Clover Hay	80s. to 100s.
New ditto	70 .. 85	Old ditto	100 .. 120
Useful old ditto	86 .. 88	Oat Straw	32 .. 34
Fine Upland and Rye Grass	90 .. 92	Wheat Straw	34 .. 36

COAL EXCHANGE, Jan. 3.

Stewart's, 23s.; Hetton's, 23s. 6d.; Harwell's, 22s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 85.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, Jan. 4.

TEA.—The market is advancing. Company's Congou has touched 1s. 9¾d. to 1s. 10d. per lb. cash. The stock is only 11,500 chests of this quality. The total stock of Tea in London is 29,762,765 chests. Ord. to good ord. Congou is 1s. 9¼d. to 1s. 9¾d. per lb., good ord. to best mid. Twankay, 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9¼d.

COFFEE.—Very little business doing. Jamaica Coffee sold at 100s. to 125s. Good ord. Ceylon Coffee brought 67s. 6d. to 68s., and Company's Java, 52s. to 53s.

SUGAR.—There was only a moderate business transacted, but prices were sustained for all articles. The imports were small. Raw Sugar sold slowly; Jamaica fine and good Yellow 66s. to 71s.; low to middling 60s. to 65s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—There was little business done in P.Y. Candle, either on the spot or for delivery, but prices were supported, 48s. 6d. to 49s.

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Extract from a Letter by the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., author of "Mammon."

The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had the opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unfeignedly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.

Epsom.

A superficial survey of it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") is sufficient to manifest that its plan is the most complete of any with which I am acquainted, embracing everything which the service of the family altar requires, or admits of; while its execution is also such as to entitle it to commendation, and secure for it the circulation and use which its deserves.

Birmingham.

I feel it right to express my opinion that the *plan* is excellent; and that the *execution* of the plan is judicious, and well adapted to its purpose, as an aid to the great duty and blessing of family, conjugal, and secret worship.

Homerton.

It is not till after a careful perusal that I gave an opinion of Mr. Fletcher's "Guide to Family Devotion." This I do now with great pleasure; believing it to be a work eminently calculated for beneficial circulation in Christian families, to whom I would earnestly recommend it.

Hackney.

I am enabled to speak with propriety and confidence of the real worth and admirable adaptation to usefulness of your work. I have used it much in my own family, and I can truly say that as I advance it grows in my esteem. You have rendered a most important service to Christian households by your labours, and I have no doubt that its circulation will be as extensive as your most sanguine expectations could anticipate.

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On examination, I am much pleased with it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") and feel, when I am called to leave my family, that I leave for its use a good substitute behind me.

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Hackney

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Surrey-Chapel House.

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York.

I regard this "Guide" as eminently calculated to lead on to the fulfilment of that prophecy, "Elijah shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Much both of the mantle and the spirit of Elijah has fallen upon the author of this timely work.

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